

BLAZING BROOKLYN

Green light project

Among the environmentally friendly artists who will be showcasing their work at Bklyn Designs, May 12-14 in DUMBO, is Nicholas Furrow, whose "Red Light District Lamps" recycle vintage glass lampshades and consume only 1- to 5-watts. For more about Bklyn Designs exhibitors, see **GO Brooklyn** on page 7.



Tuesday's fire in Greenpoint — the biggest since 9-11 — sent smoke billowing across the borough. For more on the story, see page 15.

NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN

Toddler troubadour sings against Ratner

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

If you're under 10, this is your Woodstock: Children's folk singer Dan Zanes — the Bob Dylan of the pre-school set — has joined the opposition to Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project and will headline an anti-project concert next month.

Zanes, a resident of Cobble Hill, became a member of the advisory committee of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn last month and now hopes to spread his anti-Ratner message through song.

"My opposition is mostly about saving the soul of Brooklyn," Zanes (pictured right) told The Brooklyn Papers. "Everything I do is about community — in my case, the spirit that comes from making music. That's what Brooklyn means right now. That's why we came here. But Ratner's project is in direct opposition to all that's good, soulful and communal about Brooklyn."

"We need to remember what we love about Brooklyn and stop this."

Across nearly a decade and on his eight best-selling albums, the former Del Fuegos

frontman has been singing to kids. But in this fight, he's playing to the adults. I was like everyone else who had heard about the project — busy with work and family and I thought, well, it's ugly, but it's inevitable," said Zanes, who's been so busy, in fact, that he even let his membership in the Park Slope Food Co-op lapse.

When he took the time to consider the "nuts and bolts" of the project — the 17 skyscrapers, the basketball arena, the 6,900-units of housing, the thousands of cars, the use of eminent domain to condemn buildings where people are currently living — Zanes said he could ignore it no more.

"I thought, 'Well, I live in Cobble Hill, that's not going to affect me.' But this project is not just in 'someone else's neighborhood,'" he said.

Zanes, who is known by virtually everyone with a kid under age 12, said his job will be to spread the word to "busy, self-centered" people like himself.

"I tell people: get informed about the entire project and then make up your mind," he said. "Atlantic Yards is everything Brooklyn is not. Check Bruce Rat-

ner's track record: Atlantic Center, Atlantic Terminal, Metrotech. Is this the guy we want doing the single biggest development in New York City?"

And then Zanes issued his most-damning edict (at least from the perspective of a dewy-eyed 10-year-old Park Slope Zanes fan): "Ratner gave us Chuck E. Cheese. Is that the best we can do for our kids?"

A spokesman for Ratner declined to comment.

Although Zanes will headline the Saturday, June 3, concert at the Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church in Fort Greene, don't expect any over-the-top Ratner songs.

"I'm not that kind of songwriter," said Zanes, who will sing protest songs like "We Shall Not Be Moved," "I Don't Want Your Millions, Mister," and the more-subtle "Wander in the Summer Wind," a classic Zanes yarn that celebrates the serendipity of just taking a walk in a low-rise borough (see sidebar).

Zanes's Brooklyn blues

Dan Zanes says he doesn't write overtly political songs, but his new tune, "Wander in the Summer Wind," was inspired by a vision of Brooklyn that, he says, is jeopardized by Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development. Here are the excerpted lyrics:

Take a left on Kane Street
Another one on Henry
Take a look around us
For anyone we know
Up the hill and down again
Hand in hand
We'll be feeling grand
When we wander in the summer wind

I'll take you to the river
Maybe down to Red Hook
Eat a few tamales
Over by the soccer games
Basketballs are flying
Over by the schoolyard
I hear the breeze
Call your name

High and low
People that we know
They say, "Hey there!"
And "How've you been?"
Good, good, good

And do you think you would
Like to wander in the summer wind
We can take the F train
Right on up to Ninth Street
Walk on to the park
To where the steel drums play
Dance around in circles
With anyone that we meet
All this could happen
On a summer Saturday



Blacks blast Bruce

Ex-Panther says Ratner 'disrespects us, denigrates us'

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Is Bruce Ratner's basketball card a race card?

That question was raised by two fiery black leaders at an Atlantic Yards forum last week at First Unitarian Church in Brooklyn Heights.

A centerpiece of Ratner's project is a basketball arena for his Brooklyn-bound New Jersey Nets.

"[He] has the audacity to talk about a basketball stadium, like black people would be impressed," said Bob Law, a radio commentator. Prospect Heights restaurateur and former Black Panther. "Like hoops is something we would really need."

"We are really not going to sit quietly and allow you to disrespect us and denigrate us... [This] rings with a kind of contempt for poor people and black people."

Law hammered all night on the race issue, which has bubbled up at other forums, but was also the driving force behind the Community Benefits Agreement Ratner signed with eight minority groups.

"Ratner believes that because you are poor, you ought to accept any job you can get, like, 'You poor little ignorant Negroes,'" Law said.

The Rev. Dennis Dillon of the Brooklyn Christian Center in Fort Greene joined Law in his opposition to Atlantic Yards — but Dillon focused on the type of permanent jobs Ratner says will be created at the arena.

And he was more circumspect in his rhetoric.

"The black community is not all about some low-paying jobs that will force us to live elsewhere anyway," said Dillon, who evoked the civil rights movement as a model for black opposition to Atlantic Yards.

"We believe, like Martin Luther King did, that justice must roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream," he said.

But there was another man of God in the house who defended the Ratner project — "Ratner's always been fair, just, concerned and compassionate to me," said the Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church in Boro Park Hill.

"He's one of the more liberal, progressive developers in the country."

Daughtry argued that Ratner's project See **BLACKS** on page 14

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman



Ratner's glossy fantasyland

YOU NEVER KNOW what you're going to get in the morning mail: a glossy catalogue, a piece of political literature, some junk mail.

Or, in the case of Bruce Ratner's latest mailing to thousands of Brooklyn residents, a little bit of all three.

The man who wants to build 17 skyscrapers in between low-rise Fort Greene and Prospect Heights sent out his latest flyer this week, painting Atlantic Yards as an urban utopia.

But it's just a four-color fantasy. Indeed, the flyer offers no renderings of the 17 Frank Gehry-designed, Vegas-style towers. Instead, it showcases the very low-rise Brooklyn that Ratner's project would overwhelm.

Deception is lurking everywhere (see my annotated Page One, far right), so read the mailing with care.

Page 3: Atlantic Yards will "create thousands of needed apartments, office space [and] local retail space." Yes, apartments are needed, but if office space is so badly needed, why are all the top floors along Fulton Street being prepped for residential conversions? And if Brooklyn is so desperate for more retail space, why does Ratner's Atlantic Center Mall fill out its tenant list with a DMV and an Empire

State Development Corporation office?

Page 6: Ratner now says his project will "provide approximately 3,800 permanent jobs," down from a claim three years ago that 10,000 new jobs would be "created."

Page 8: That smiling woman isn't smiling anymore. Actress T. Sahara Meer (pictured at left), the woman in the picture, told The Brooklyn Angle that she posed for the photo because she was "between gigs" — only to find out that the photographer sold the photo to Ratner. "That innocent day in the park [is] one of the most nightmarish experiences of my life: I have become Bruce Ratner's poster girl," said Meer, who has a "Stop Eminent Domain Abuse" sign in the window of her Prospect Heights home. "My only hope for redemption is to fight harder. So, thanks, Bruce, for fueling my fire, my anger, my ire, my hatred of you."

Page 10: Ratner claims that his community benefits agreement was negotiated by eight local organizations. But only two of them — ACORN and the New York State Association of Minority Contractors — existed before the deal was inked, as the New York Observer has reported.

Nice brownstones, Bruce!
Too bad Atlantic Yards doesn't include any of them.

This project is between Fort Greene and Prospect Heights. Calling it "Downtown" is just an attempt to justify 17 skyscrapers.

Wow! He made the arena disappear! Only Ratner could turn a 19,000-seat arena into a leafy meadow. (It's actually a private roof garden.)



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Illegals do Brooklyn's dirty work

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

Until last week, Silvia worked at a Bay Ridge cafe. An illegal immigrant from Mexico, she decided that the May 1 immigrant rally in Sunset Park was too important to miss. So did five of her colleagues.

They were all fired. But Silvia was hardly broken up about losing her position of two years.

"I'm not worried," she said, holding a sign at the rally that read, "I lost my job to be here today. I'll find another job."



The Brooklyn Papers / Rebecca March

She's almost certainly right. Undocumented immigrants are, after all, in constant demand. From the buildings that go up to the restaurant meals that go down to the babies that get wheeled all around, immigrants — both legal and illegal — prop up virtually every sector of the Brooklyn economy.

Take the restaurant industry. In even the fanciest joints, the hands preparing your mirror-glazed baked salmon usually belong to an undocumented worker.

At just 24-years-old, Jesus, an illegal immigrant from Puebla, Mexico, is a veteran of Brooklyn's underground



The Brooklyn Papers / Laura Schmitt

economy. During his seven years here, he's made everything from salads to stir-fry to sushi (which he doesn't particularly care for). He got his current job the old-fashioned way — by walking into a restaurant that was under construction and asking for work. He's helping to build the eatery by hand. Once the renovation is done, he'll work in the kitchen.

"I like what I do and I do what I like," he said. "They treat me well."

The jobs Jesus has held typically the positions normally filled by immigrants — they are low-wage, don't require many skills, and are attained through a web of contacts, by pounding the pavement or merely standing at well-known day-laborer pick-up sites like the parking lot of the Caesar's Bay shopping center in Bensonhurst.

"Very few Americans apply for these jobs — cooking, dishwashing, construction," said a restaurateur who's been in the business for a decade.

Not only are immigrants more willing to take these jobs, but, according to the restaurateur, they do a better job.

"We prefer to train someone from the ground up anyway," he said. "You want someone who will come to you humble and is willing to learn. And then you hold on to these guys and hopefully you treat them well and you keep them."

Jesus's story illustrates this point (see sidebar). He had no construction skills when he was first hired. Now he can do delicate carpentry with the best of them.

While the number of positions filled by undocumented workers is elusive, experts say the number is very high.

"Even in the highest-end restaurants, the majority of the employees, at every level, except the management, has been illegal immigrants," said the restaurateur.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce estimates 20,000 jobs borough-wide in accommodation and food services — many held by immigrants.

"Immigrant workers are of vital importance across the Brooklyn economy, in a variety of sectors," said Kenneth Adams, president of the chamber, which opposes a



The Brooklyn Papers / Laura Schmitt

Silvia (bottom) joins flag-waving immigrants during Monday's Sunset Park rally.

pending bill in Congress that would cause the deportation of many illegal workers.

"What's less clear, because we don't have good data about it, is the percentage of illegal immigrants in the Brooklyn workforce."

That's because most employers and immigrant groups have a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Andrew Friedman, co-director of the advocacy group Make the Road by Walking, says that he has no idea what percentage of his 1,600 clients are illegal. His organization doesn't ask.

Some businesses do ask for Social Security cards, but it's little more than a formality.

"Anyone can get some type of paper that says something on it," said the restaurateur. "And most people will take it, photocopy it, and file it somewhere. A lot of these guys are even paying taxes."

Like anyone who works so deeply in the shadows, undocumented workers are subject to abuse.

"There are some restaurants that are great places to work, and there are others where the restaurant owner is mistreating or exploiting workers," said Friedman.

Jesus knows this from first-hand experience. At one restaurant where he worked, employees who got sick were told to stay home and rest — permanently.

One immigrant tells his story

The Brooklyn Papers

To reach the Land of Opportunity seven years ago, Jesus, 24, staked \$1,700, his safety, and his future. Here is his story:

"I wanted to better myself. My dad asked me if I wanted to move to the United States. I didn't know anything. I was 17. I wanted the adventure."

"I left Puebla, Mexico, on a Monday morning. My family took me to the airport to say goodbye, and I boarded a plane to Nogales with a friend of my father's. We were following a coyote."

"After a few days of moving north, we started walking across the desert to Arizona."

"We began walking at 3 pm in single file, like in school. Three or four coyotes took out pistols and made us lie down on the ground. One by one, they searched us, making us undress to see if we were hiding money. I lost about 600 pesos."

"Fifteen hours later, we arrived at a small forest next to a highway (near Phoenix). We were divided into groups of 15 and piled into trucks."

"I had to lie at the bottom of a pile of

four or five people for two hours."

"A day later, we were taken by car to New York City. I had to adjust quickly. I ended up delivering stuff from a warehouse to 99-cent shops, and then I got a job at a restaurant in Chinatown. I made salads and stir-fry and sushi. If anyone gets sick, they fire you."

"But overall, I am happy to be in Brooklyn. I earn good money and have my own place in Bushwick."

"I like the U.S. a lot. I don't care if they say bad things about us. I came to work. I came to earn money."

— as told to Dana Rubinstein

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Stop and eat the wild violets



The Brooklyn Papers / Sharon Seitz

It's wild violet season in Brooklyn — and these two tykes have a handful of yummy treats.

By Sharon Seitz
for The Brooklyn Papers

If you've ever wanted to show your kids that food doesn't grow at the supermarket, try harvesting some Brooklyn-grown, vitamin C-filled, wild violets.

They're growing everywhere right now, in yards, parks, and even sidewalk cracks. Look for a low-growing, sprawling plant with heart-shaped leaves and purple or blue five-petaled flowers.

Eat them straight out of hand — after washing them, of course — or follow this easy, sweet recipe. Your kids will love it: Whisk one, room-temperature egg white with a few drops of water. Paint the blossoms with the mixture and sprinkle them with superfine sugar. Let dry completely before storing in an airtight container. They keep for about a year and make nice cupcake decorations.

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Parking lots held up

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

Police are investigating whether two similar robberies at Downtown parking facilities last week were the work of the same suspect, police reports show. In one, the attackers also used duct tape to bind and gag the victim. Each robbery netted the thieves about \$250.

The first hit involved two armed men who held up an Albee Square garage, near Willoughby Street, at 7:45 pm on April 28, police said. One man served as a lookout while the other pulled a black gun on the attendant, demanding, "Papi, give me the money."

The thug then snatched \$259 from the register, and the pair bolted. Two days later, just after 9 am, two men armed with guns robbed a parking facility on Livingston Street, near Court Street. They rushed the 61-year-old attendant with their weapons drawn and insisted, "Give us all the money you have, or we will shoot you."

The pair plucked \$6 and a cellphone from the victim and snatched \$242 from the register. But this didn't satisfy the greedy thugs. One insisted, "This is not enough," and they checked the drawer and the victim again, finding nothing more, finally left.

On the way out, the robbers wrapped the victim's hands and feet in duct tape, then used the super-strength, federally approved adhesive to gag him and bind him to a chair. The April 28 thieves were described as black men, one 5-foot-11 and wearing a sweat shirt and black pants, the sec-

ond 5-foot-6 and in a grey jogging jacket.

The victim of the earlier heist said his attackers were black men, one 5-foot-11 and 230 pounds with a black hat and blue jeans, the other wearing a similar black and blue getup.

Shun shoot

An angry man became abusive and fired two gunshots at a woman after she rejected his advances on April 25, police said.

The thug approached the 16-year-old beauty as she walked along Schermerhorn Street, near Hoyt Street, around 5:45 pm. When she refused to give him her digits, he grew angry and abusive, grabbing the young woman and punching her before she managed to fight him off.

When she did free herself, the aggressor pulled a gun and fired two shots in her direction — luckily missing her and any bystanders. No description was available for the thug, who is still roaming the streets.

AM attack

What a violent way to start the day.

A thug attacked a Queens man driving on Jay Street around 7:30 am on April 26, thrusting his fist through the driver's window in a shower of glass and menacing the victim with a long knife, police said.

The suspect also shouted racial slurs at the 24-year-old victim, calling him a "white motherf---" and threatening to kill him with an eight-inch blade.

Luckily, the brute fled before using the knife. The shards of flying glass left the victim with bloody gashes on his neck, throat and hands.

The Brooklyn Papers

Fatal shooting in Ft. Greene

A 50-year-old woman was killed by a gunshot wound to the head on May 3, the fourth killing this year in a precinct that had only one murder all of last year.

Officers from the 88th Precinct discovered the victim, a member of the group BUILD, at around 5:45 am in a building on Carlton Avenue, near Atlantic Avenue. Paramedics rushed her to Brooklyn Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Police are investigating the killing, but didn't make any immediate arrests. More details surrounding the death were not released.

The murder rate in the 88th Precinct is still down from the bad old days.

In 2001, there were 11 killings in the precinct, which covers Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. A decade ago, when Myrtle Avenue was called "Murder Avenue," there were 13 killings.

— Stainton

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Red Hook rob

Two men armed with a gun mugged a woman walking to Red Hook from the Carroll Street subway station around 10 pm on April 27, police said.

At first, the strangers passed by the 29-year-old victim as she walked from the station towards a footbridge at the end of Henry Street. But suddenly, they wheeled around and ran towards her with a gun drawn, demanding she turn over her phone and other valuables.

The thugs snatched the cellphone, along with an iPod, her wallet with \$300, an unchashed check and various credit cards, plus her journal and sketchbook.

The victim wasn't injured. He described the thieves as a 5-foot-6 black man with blue eyes and a light-skinned Hispanic man, also 5-foot-6, with long curly hair.

Quick hit

It took less than five minutes for a burglar to sneak through the window of a Sackett Street home and snatch a laptop on April 13, police said.

The robber didn't leave any marks as he slipped into the apartment between Hoyt and Smith streets, around 3:30 am.

The 28-year-old victim awoke to find his Apple Powerbook had disappeared.

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7th Ave thief on a bike

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Four thieves — one riding a bike — robbed a 14-year-old walking down Seventh Avenue in broad daylight April 27, police said.

The robbers approached the teen as he reached the corner of Berkeley Place, around 5:30 p.m. and asked, "You want to fight tonight?" But they chose to talk instead, and the conversation ended with the thugs snatching the boy's high-end cellphone — allegedly worth \$400 — and fleeing along Eighth Avenue.

The youngster gave police a description of three out of four robbers. Now they're

iPod safety

The Brooklyn Papers

Readers of the police blotter in The Brooklyn Papers may have noticed that iPod theft is one of the most prevalent crimes in Brooklyn. The NYPD wants to reverse the trend.

A new program will allow owners of iPods, cellphones, and other handheld electronic devices to register their eye-catching items with the police, who will mark them with ink that can only be seen under a black light. If such registered devices are stolen, but later found, cops can return them to their rightful owners.

People who register their electronics also get a "Gear Guard" that can be attached to zippers to protect easy targets on the subway.

Register your handheld device at any of the NYPD's transit bureau offices. Area locations are: 333 Schermerhorn St. (between Nevins and Third avenues in Boerum Hill); 960 Carroll St. (at Franklin Avenue in Crown Heights); 2399 Fulton St. (at Van Sinderen Avenue in East New York); and 2800 West Sixth St. (at Neptune Avenue in Coney Island).

— Susan Coslier

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County of the 26th day of April, 2006, bearing the index Number N000122062, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT HOUSE, COUNTY 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Mla Naderida Rabinovich. My present name is Mla Rabinovich who Mla Naderida Rabinovich, my present address is: 50 Plaza Street East, Brooklyn, New York 11238. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: April 19, 1955.

PS18

POLICE BLOTTER

looking for three black men, one 5-foot-6 with dreadlocks and dressed in black pants and sneakers, another 5-foot-10, bald and wearing glasses, the third 5-foot-3 with crowns, glasses and dressed in a snorkel jacket.

Gym attack

A body builder at a Fifth Avenue gym struck another member in the head with a dumbbell after an argument broke out between them on March 24, police said.

The musclehead began arguing with the 47-year-old victim at 5:10 p.m., as they worked through their separate exercise routines. The fight escalated and the beery thug left the gym.

When he returned moments later, the 6-foot-2, 210-pound black-booted brute picked up a "piece of exercise equipment" — the dumbbell — and struck his victim on the head, leaving a bloody wound. The attacker then fled the gym again, cops said.

But the detailed membership data stored in the gym's computer helped lead cops to the door of their suspect, whom they arrested later that day on assault charges.

Another murder

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

A 50-year-old woman was killed by a gunshot wound to the head on May 3, the fourth killing this year in a precinct that had only one murder all of last year.

Officers from the 88th Precinct discovered the victim, a member of BUILD, at around 5:45 a.m. in a building on Carlton Avenue, near Atlantic Avenue. Paramedics rushed her to Brooklyn Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Police are investigating, but didn't make any immediate arrests.

Details surrounding her death were not released. The murder rate in the 88th Precinct is still down from the bad old days. In 2001, there were 11 killings in the precinct, which covers Fort Greene and Clinton Hill.

A decade ago, when Myrtle Avenue was called "Murder Avenue," there were 13.

Lucky nab

A Park Slope man returned home on April 25 just in time to catch a burglar leaving with an armful of electronics, police said.

The victim left his First Street home, near Fourth Avenue, around 3:30 p.m. When he returned 50 minutes later, he noticed something wrong

with his front door. When he looked out the window, he noticed a stranger in front of his building with a piece of his audio-recording equipment in hand.

A call to police resulted in the arrest of the 42-year-old on burglary charges. The victim's equipment was recovered.

Cleaned out

This heist offered a new take on "taking out the trash." It turns out that the man hauling the garbage out of a

Third Avenue glass business on April 27 wasn't doing the company any favors: the bin contained a stolen leather jacket, bolt cutters and a drill gun.

An employee of the business, near Butler Street, recovered the goods, but did not catch up with the thief, whom he had thrown out of the building earlier that day.

Police later tracked down the 47-year-old suspect on Bond Street, near Baitie, and arrested him on burglary charges.

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- 3) If The Paper has been delivered to your house and you do not want The Paper delivered in the future, we will put you on our "opt out" list. Please respond online at www.BrooklynPapers.com.

As always, The Brooklyn Papers are free. We hope you enjoy it.

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OUR OPINION

Amugly payoff

THE PRICE OF A CLEAR conscience dropped dramatically this week with the news that Century 21, the department store chain with a massive presence on 86th Street in Bay Ridge, had given four youth groups checks for \$2,500.

What could be wrong with a donation of \$10,000 from a family-owned corporation to struggling neighborhood groups? Nothing — if the checks are written for the right reasons.

But Century 21's donations amount to blood money. Only a few months ago, residents, elected officials and indeed this newspaper decried the department store for buying a well-tiled bowling alley and planning to tear it down to build a multi-level parking garage.

Shades of Joni Mitchell: "They paved paradise to put up a parking lot." No one argues that the Mark Lanes was "paradise" — but in a neighborhood that recently saw one of its two movie theaters close, where parents are desperate to find safe places for their kids to play or hang out, and where seniors are constantly looking for something to do, the loss of the Mark Lanes will hit Bay Ridge hard.

But that isn't Century 21's concern. Only after the fact — and only after relentless prodding by City Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) — did the company cough up a little dough for a reeling community.

Local officials feted company officials at a press conference on Monday, but found them

selves on the defensive when a reporter — our own Gersh Kuntzman — said that \$10,000 didn't seem to be a heck of a lot of scratch.

"But other companies don't give anything," one local business leader said. Actually, they do it all the time — witness Bruce Ratner's sponsorship of this year's PS 321 spring dance and auction in Park Slope. The problem is that companies like Century 21 and Forest City Ratner, promoting its Atlantic Yards mega-development against heavy community opposition, seem to think they can buy off the public for a song.

Century 21 is destroying a community resource to make it easier for discount shoppers to park their SUVs and spend their money. For that, \$10,000 is a paltry sum.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Cartoon drawing by The Brooklyn Papers

LETTERS

After IND, the reformers need reform

To the editor:

As a new member of the venerable political club, Independent Neighborhood Democrats (IND), I am also a newly disenfranchised member ("New Dems locked out," April 22).

IND's executive board took the extreme, wrongheaded, shortsighted and contemptible measure of moving its stated and publicized congressional and state race endorsement dates weeks earlier in order to block the endorsement vote eligibility of new dues-paying members.

The measure has disenfranchised anyone between 70 and 100 new members. It seems that the club board, which seeks to grow the club, was not pleased with who joined the club. In so doing, the board has severely harmed its integrity.

For more than two years, Brooklyn citizens with a vast array of serious concerns about Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards proposal have been locked out of the development's review process, both by state and city agencies, as well as elected office holders.

For the largest single-source development proposal in the history of New York City, this is unacceptable. So concerned citizens, and opponents of that project who seek sensible and responsible development, have sought to find their place in the few remaining corners of the political world that allow and encourage the voices of citizens and voters.

Political clubs are one of those last corners of grassroots politics, where sunlight can shine on processes and candidates. And the opportunity to participate in ground-level endorsements is a key part of the club process.

Yet now, IND, Brooklyn's premier reform club, has closed that window and blocked that sunlight, removing yet another forum for political engagement.

What, I wonder, are they all so afraid of?

Daniel Goldstein, Prospect Heights

Note on your note

To the editor:

You ran my letter in a recent issue ("Racial plagues," April 29), but added an "editor's note" which cited

the 1990-2000 Census as evidence that blacks are not being pushed out of Brooklyn.

First of all, Brooklyn demographics from 1990 to 2006 are not covered in the Census you quote.

Next, blacks are not the only people being pushed out of previously affordable Brooklyn neighborhoods. Arabs, Puerto Ricans, Asians, many ethnic groups suffer the same fate.

The Anglo Anschluss of Brooklyn

came on strong in 1998 and has not abated as of this date. Therefore, your reply to my commentary is irrelevant.

Kelly Grill, Cobble Hill

Simonized

To the editor:

Whoa! Your front-page story on Hugh Carey's endorsement of Eliot Spitzer ("New Odd Couple," April 29) mentioned that they met with

male District Leader Alan Fleischman at a diner in Park Slope.

But, for the record, there was a redheaded female district leader engaged in animated conversation with Mr. Spitzer and Gov. Carey.

Feeling like chopped liver, I request some acknowledgement of this.

Jo Anne Simon, District Leader

Editor's note: Acknowledgement provided — with our apologies.

Protect the protectors

To the editor,

When it comes to fighting crime in and making sure our communities are safe, the men and women in the Police Department truly are New York's Finest. Crime is down. Arrests are up. And day after day, our brave officers put themselves in harm's way to keep New York the safest big city in the world.

Yet many New Yorkers recall tragedies like the death of Police Officer Anthony Mosonillo, a Bensonhurst resident, who was fatally shot while arresting a criminal for a parole violation. Although Officer Mosonillo was wearing a bulletproof vest, he was struck in the neck, a section left unprotected by his vest.

The death of any police officer is a tragedy, but it is even more so when it might have been prevented with a more up-to-date bulletproof vest. It forces us to ask a critical question: as cops put their lives on the line to protect us, can the city do more to protect them? The answer is yes.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly recently testified that approximately half of the NYPD — nearly 18,000 officers — wear older, less-protective vests. These outdated vests do not take advantage of new technology that protects vulnerable areas along the sides of the body and around the neck.

For police officers to put their lives on the line without the proper safety equipment is just plain wrong.

That's why I have spearheaded an

effort in the City Council to call on the mayor to buy 18,000 state-of-the-art vests for New York's Finest. The latest vests are capable of stopping bullets traveling at higher velocities and offer added protection to vulnerable areas under the arm and around the neck — the area where Officer Mosonillo was fatally wounded.

I have also introduced legislation to reimburse officers who choose to upgrade or add attachments to their vests.

As weaponry gets more sophisticated and criminals become more brazen, helping officers wear a more protective vest is a simple, commonsense plan to save lives. It's also the right thing to do.

Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge)

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Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge)

Send a letter

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By fax: (718) 834-9278.

By email: Letters@BrooklynPapers.com

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

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Chase bank will replace Nick & Joes

After 49 years, it quits Court St.

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

Don't bother buying that silver anniversary present for Joe Carbone — his Nick and Joe's Pizzeria has closed to make room for a Chase bank, thanks to an offer he couldn't refuse.

"We could've been around another 50 years, but Chase made an offer, and I made a decision," Carbone told The Brooklyn Papers this week, amidst the debris of demolition and the memories of 49 years in the pizza business.

"We had a regular Brooklyn pie that everyone loved," he said.

The storefront bank will be the fourth Chase location Downtown — the latest in a string of bank conversions that has left many neighborhoods with plenty of easily accessible cash, but fewer and fewer local stores.

There are, after all, 59 banks in a 1.5-mile radius of Nick and Joe's, according to a telephone directory check.

Carbone's father, Nick, established his red-white-and-green restaurant soon after emigrating from Italy. Even after taking over the business from his father, the Bensonhurst-born Joe never strayed from his old man's sweet-sauced recipe. Fans appreciated it.

"It was the only place [in Downtown] to get a decent slice," groused Reggie Brown, an electrician who had the unenviable job of dismantling the parlor's four brick ovens. "All day long people are knocking on the door, crying, 'You broke my heart.'"

Carbone is now considering selling the family-owned recipe — and the father and son name — for a franchise.



Joe Carbone of the now-shuttered Nick and Joe's Pizzeria on Court Street in Brooklyn Heights this week.

Keep safe with your iPod

The Brooklyn Papers

Readers of the police blotter in The Brooklyn Papers may have noticed that iPod theft is one of the most prevalent crimes in Brooklyn. The NYPD wants to reverse the trend.

A new program will allow owners of iPods, cellphones, and other handheld electronic devices to register their eye-catching items with the police,

who will mark them with ink that can only be seen under a black light.

If such registered devices are stolen, but later found, cops can return them to their rightful owners.

People register their electronics also get a "Gear Guard" that can be attached to zippers to protect easy targets on the subway.

The new program is free. Register your handheld device

at any of the NYPD's transit bureau offices. Area locations are: 333 Schenck Street (between Nevens and Third avenues in Boerum Hill); 960 Carroll St. (at Franklin Avenue in Crown Heights); 2399 Fulton St. (at Van Sinderen Avenue in East New York); and 2800 West Sixth St. (at Neptune Avenue in Coney Island).

— Susan Cosier

Prime-time mug of teen in Slope

The Brooklyn Papers

Four thieves — one riding a bike — robbed a 14-year-old walking down Seventh Avenue in broad daylight April 27, police said.

The robbers approached the teen as he reached the corner of Berkeley Place, around 5:30 pm, and asked, "You want to fight tonight?" But they chose to talk instead, and the conversation ended with the thugs snatching the boy's high-end cellphone — allegedly worth \$400 — and fleeing along Eighth Avenue.

The youngster gave police a description of three out of four robbers. Now they're looking for three black men, one 5-foot-5 with dreadlocks, another 5-foot-10, bald and wearing glasses, the third 5-foot-3 with cornrows.

No cars allowed

Starting today (Saturday), Willoughby Street, between Pearl and Adams streets in Downtown Brooklyn, will be closed to vehicular traffic so a pedestrian plaza can be built. Once completed, planters will separate the pedestrian corridor from traffic and the city will fill the pocket-sized plaza with benches, chairs, tables and freshly painted bike racks.

— Ariella Cohen

Bay Ridge pie makers get a pizza the action

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Bay Ridge Democrats may not agree on everything, but they have finally settled on just one pizzeria as their neighborhood's best.

One year after Brooklyn Democrats for Change, a neighborhood political club, raised cackles from their GOP counterparts for picking two pizzerias in its first-ever "Best Pizza" contest, the club members handed the crown to Peppino's.

More cackles ensued — even from the winner.

Joe Mancino, owner of the Third Avenue pie joint, told The Brooklyn Papers.

It could have been worse. In hopes of avoiding last year's warring, the club employed a numbering system that hid the identity of the 11 participating pizzerias.

"I know that a group of Democrats tends to have 14 opinions on every topic, but we will pick a winner this year," Pierre Lehu, the club's second vice president, said as members of the club gathered last week at The Four House on Third Avenue.

"One winner, that is."

As the pizzas started showing up, the club was clearly divided along partisan lines. Some genuinely wanted to get serious about pizza (and, of course, complain about the Bush Administration). But others were there just to eat, drink and complain about the Bush Administration.

Club President Jeannie May took the competition seriously, although she admitted that, despite the club's egalitarian stance on most social issues, she had a "prejudice in favor of cheese."

"I'm from Wisconsin, you know," she said.

In the end, May voted for Peppino's — and was pleased when the plurality of her members did, too.

"As a Democrat, it does feel nice to back a winner from time to time," she said.

In exit polls, Peppino's voters praised the outstanding Pizza alla Vodka, a standout pie featuring prosciutto, mushrooms, fresh mozzarella and a vodka-infused sauce.

And the selection earned begrudging support from some Republicans.

"They picked Peppino's?" said John Quagliore, an aide to state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge). "I like Peppino's. It has the feeling of an old-fashioned pizza parlor. I must say, it's a good choice!"

Others were less conciliatory.

"Casa Calamari, on 86th Street and Third Avenue, is the preferred choice of the Brooklyn Young Republican Club," said the club's new president, Bob Capano. "I'm sure the Brooklyn Democrats for Change put a lot of time into deciding their favorite

slice. Hopefully, they will put as much time and effort into joining Republicans in fighting for lower taxes and education tax credits for the working families of Brooklyn."

But Mancino didn't want to throw political stones, despite his party affiliation.

"You know, Democrats can be good people, too," he said. "There are Democrats who do a good job and Republicans who do a lousy job. But at the end of the day, they're all crooks."



Joe Mancino and his sister Rosanna of Peppino's Pizza, voted the best pizza in Bay Ridge by Brooklyn Democrats for Change.

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The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Supplemental Summons, as the same appears from the original thereof, and that the same was served by the undersigned, or by a competent person, on the within and foregoing named parties, and that the same were duly received by them, and that the same were duly read to them, and that the same were duly explained to them, and that the same were duly understood by them, and that the same were duly acknowledged by them, and that the same were duly filed in the Court of the City and County of Kings, New York, at 100 West 10th Street, New York, New York 10011, on the 14th day of May, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtroom of the City and County of Kings, New York, at 100 West 10th Street, New York, New York 10011, and that the same were duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Court of the City and County of Kings, New York, at 100 West 10th Street, New York, New York 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in the hunt for Heath

SMARTMOM LOVED Heath Ledger in "Brokeback Mountain." In fact, the scene in the tent with Jake really got her juices going. Literally. A little rough, a little raw, it was one of the best movie sex scenes in recent memory.

Truth be told, Smartmom got all hot and squirmy sitting next to Hepcat in the Pavilion not long ago. Then, the other day, Smartmom read a short on-line piece about her man Heath.

"My life right now is, I wouldn't say reduced to food, but my duties in life are that I wake up, cook breakfast, clean the dishes, prepare lunch, clean those dishes, go to the market, get fresh produce, cook dinner, clean those dishes and then sleep if I can. And I love it. I actually adore it," Ledger told the Hollywood Star.

It's no secret that Smartmom thinks — hell, even dumb moms, think it, too — that there is nothing sexier than a man who takes good care of his children, SHOPS FOR GROCERIES and cooks. Clearly, Heath is loving his life as baby Matilda's dad and Michelle's husband in Boerum Hill.

Later, Smartmom shared her view of Heath with Dumb Editor (who also liked "Brokeback Mountain," although he did not find the tent scene as pleasing as Smartmom). "Why don't you go down to BoCoCa — or whatever the brokers are calling that neighborhood nowadays and find Heath? Then you can see for yourself."

Smartmom is never thrilled when she has to leave her upholstered divan to do some real reporting. But if it meant a chance to see her man Heath, Smartmom was game. She changed into Heath-stalking gear — cowboy boots, blue jeans, jean jacket and dark glasses — and boarded a Bergen Street-bound F-train.

When Smartmom arrived in the land of Heath and Michelle, she walked up Smith Street and peeked into the Cafe Kai, which had an ultra welcoming sign on the door that said, "We've Been Waiting for You."

Despite a full menu of organic tea, there was no H or M.

Smartmom spotted a seriously cool woman's closet store, called Dear Fieldbinder. Hoping to see Michelle, with Matilda in the Bjorn, shopping with Daddy Heath, Smartmom walked into the high-end dress shop.

Smartmom spotted a black t-shirt that would look perfect underneath the jacket she's wearing to her 30th high school reunion in a few weeks. She plunked down \$32 for garment — but this wasn't shopping, this was recce. Smartmom asked the saleswoman, Sadie Stein, if she'd ever seen Heath or Michelle.

A huge, mischievous smile crossed Stein's face and her eyes shone through her oversized tortoise-shell glasses.

"I was driving down Smith Street with friends and saw a really goofy looking jogger wearing bright red sweat pants, an Africa t-shirt, a really weird headband, and big sunglasses, flailing his arms about like this."

She demonstrated what looked like a cross between modern dance and kick-boxing. "He looked so funny, we had to stop the car. And then my friend figured out that it was Heath Ledger!"

Stein was an unapologetic treasure trove of information about Heath and Michelle. "I also saw the two of them at an afternoon screening of 'Grizzly Man' at the Cobble Hill Cinema. I was the only one in the movie theater. They came in after the opening credits and left before the closing credits. Stein thought that was strange. "I mean, it was

just the three of us."

That sounded kinda kinky to Smartmom. (Dumb Editor note: Down, girl.)

Next, Smartmom checked out the various children's boutiques on Smith Street. Smartmom was almost certain that she'd see them at Area in BoCoCa, shopping for yoga pants, a Buddha-patterned diaper cover, or a \$95, hand-knit hoodie for Matilda.

By Louise Crawford

"They've been here a lot," one salesgirl said helpfully.

But they're not here now, are they, thought Smartmom.

Smartmom headed to Hoyt Street, where, she'd heard, the dashing couple lived. Hoyt is a step back in time to pre-gentrified Brooklyn. The impressive St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church looms over the small-scale neighborhood of three-story brownstones and bodegas

and acres of red brick apartment buildings that make up the Gowanus Houses.

Smartmom ran into a small woman walking a fashionable small dog and popped the question. The woman's eyes moved discreetly towards the building where Heath and Michelle supposedly live.

"But we've never seen them," Dog Lady said. "I think they must have a house somewhere else. They don't live there."

Still, Smartmom's opinion of Heath and Michelle was rising to new heights. They are so cool to see the beauty in this very mixed Brooklyn landscape, she thought.

Smartmom walked back to Smith, hoping to see Heath carrying a big bag of groceries. Instead, she saw a Brooklyn

See HEATH on page 14

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 6, 2006

Easy being green

More than 20 exhibitors at Bklyn Designs 2006 put the earth first

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

While Brooklyn furniture makers and product designers are already sought after for their clever concepts, top-notch craftsmanship and ironic wit, they're increasingly getting a rep for an environmentally friendly work ethic, too.

At this year's edition of the annual home decor showcase, Bklyn Designs, more than 20 of the 57 exhibitors will be showing products that are good for the earth and home.

"Some of the exhibitors who are building green now haven't in the past," explained Karen Auster, producer of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce event, which features the largest number of participating green designers to date. "It's part of our culture; it's more mainstream now."

One of the designers, who not only creates furniture from sustainable materials, but is also a source of such materials for his fellow artists, is Bart Bettencourt. His Bettencourt Green Building Supplies in Williamsburg supplies designers, like those from East Williamsburg's Brave Space, and he uses renewable resources and non-toxic adhesives and finishes in his own Bart Bettencourt furniture line.

"A couple of years ago, no one was doing it, and that's why we started [Green Building Supplies]," Bettencourt told GO Brooklyn. "Now people are starting to see there's a market for it."

"The wood alternatives have come to a point where they are as good or better than their environmentally damaging counterparts: those that have finishes that have heavy-metal drying agents, or are formaldehyde-based, or have off-gas or ozone-depleting chemicals in their finishes that lead to poor indoor air quality, or particle board or fiber board from virgin trees rather than industrial by-products."

Bettencourt also collaborates with Carlos Salgado to create a line of furniture fashioned from 100 percent reclaimed lumber. Scrapie, At Bklyn Designs, Scrapie works will be exhibited as well as pieces from Bettencourt's line.

He will also display pieces he created with Williamsburg, such as an ottoman with a wood base topped with a white-hemp cushion.

"She does a lot of work with vintage and reclaimed fabrics," he said.

Bettencourt says that making furniture



Creature comforts: At Bklyn Designs in DUMBO, May 12-14, Williamsburg's Swigg will showcase its "Swigg Critters II," crafted from hand-screened vinyl and stuffed with 100 percent polyester fiber fill and poly pellets.

with green materials is increasingly necessary "as population increases and we deplete our natural resources," but New York magazine's Ben Williams recently sniffed that the greenies are deceiving themselves.

"Given that eco-friendly furniture can have little impact on the environment at such small production levels, it cannot help but be more about the idea of saving the Earth than actually doing it," Williams wrote.

Susan Woods of DUMBO's As-won showroom disagrees.

"Every contribution that people make is very important to the environment," Woods told GO Brooklyn. "I buy biodegradable dish soap and that's a good thing."

"Some of these people are not at a point where they are able to make big runs — or they don't want to. Many of the people in Bklyn Designs are new to the industry, like myself. It takes a while to establish oneself."

At Bklyn Designs, Woods will exhibit her metal and bent poplar wood pieces that are "on the cusp between art and functional objects."

"I do a lot of recycling," said Woods, whose work is shown in Todd Yellin's new

feature film, "Brother's Shadow." "I get things out of Dumpsters and things that are going to be thrown away — as a result, the materials are repurposed. Sometimes I have to buy certain



Bamboo duo: Brave Space's "Hollow Tables," crafted from bamboo with an organic finish, come in a utility table size and end table version, which has a number of folds that create pockets for storage.

HOME

Bklyn Designs takes place May 12-14 at several locations, including St. Ann's Warehouse (59 Water St., at Dock Street in DUMBO, BO, (718) 254-8779) and Bklyn Designs Gallery, 37 Main St. The "Blockparty" exhibit is on display at 267A State St., between Smith and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill; a shuttle bus to and from DUMBO will be stopping there every half-hour. Bklyn Designs hours are 12 for trade only, from 10 am to 8 pm; May 13, from 10 am to 7 pm; and May 14, from 11 am to 6 pm. Tickets, which include admission to all show venues and seminars on May 13 and 14, are \$12 and are available at the door, at the Web site and Brooklyn Industries locations. For a list of exhibitors, visit www.brooklyn.designs.net.

materials to fill out some of the found materials, but I also buy recycled things." For instance, her "Spring Line" of screens is made from upholstery springs.

San Krageil of Brave Space says his company "tries to implement non-toxic, sustainably produced" materials whenever possible, and all of their furniture's finishes are water-based or organically produced oils.

"You can't consider one facet of the environmental movement to be irrelevant because it's only doing a small part," said Krageil in response to Williams. "It's a growing and necessary movement."

At Bklyn Designs, Brave Space will exhibit its "Hollow" line of furniture, made from Bettencourt's Plyboo, a bamboo product.

"It acts like a hardwood," explained Krageil. "It has the strength and density of hardwood, and we like using it because it comes in a sheet. But it has a strength and resilience you can't find in normal plywood."

Krageil believes customers will pony up the slightly higher price tag of green materials.

"It doesn't cost THAT much more," he said. "It doesn't look as cheap as comparable materials; it looks more expensive and it's durable and has the green selling point that makes it worthwhile."

Brooklyn designers like Krageil, Woods and Bettencourt are proving that employing eco-friendly materials doesn't mean sacrificing durability, form or function, so their pieces — and the philosophy behind using those materials — can't help but influence even more consumers and manufacturers to jump on the green bandwagon.

"If it seems naive now to say that green design is making an environmental impact, watch for a year or two and see if you feel the same way," wagers Bettencourt. "There's definitely a growing trend and the supply is just starting to catch up with the demand."

— Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Elvis returns

On May 12, Alan Broadbent conducts the Brooklyn Philharmonic in a performance of Elvis Costello's "Suite from Il Sogno (The Dream)."

Yes, that Elvis Costello. The singer-songwriter who pined for "Alison" has reworked his classical suite, initially commissioned by the Italian dance company Aterballetto, since its North American debut with the Brooklyn Philharmonic in 2004.

The second half of the program will feature songs selected by Costello and performed with pianist Steve Nieve and the

philharmonic, including tunes from his latest album "My Flame Burns Blue" (Deutsche Grammophon). The "Elvis Costello and the Brooklyn Philharmonic" program begins at 8 pm on May 12 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$25, \$60, \$80 and \$105. For premium tickets, call (718) 488-5913, all others call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.brooklynphilharmonic.org. — Lisa J. Curtis

CINEMA

Sundance East

On May 11, "Sundance Institute at BAM" kicks off with an invitation-only screening of the film, "Little Miss Sunshine."

Before the tears start to flow, rest assured that there are tickets remaining for most of the screenings of 15 feature-length and documentary films culled from January's festival in Park City, Utah, as well as the panel discussions, filmmaker Q&As, and musical performances that continue through May 21.

Among the Sundance Film Festival selections being screened is Mark Dornford-May's "Son of Man" (pictured), which sets Jesus's life in modern-day South Africa. This movie will be shown May 14 at 6:15 pm and May 15 at 9:30 pm.

The co-winner of the jury prize in short filmmaking, Adam Parrish King's short film "The Wrath of Cobble Hill" is, indeed, set in our very own borough.

"Wrath" will be shown as part of a short film program on May 14 at 12:30 pm and May 16 at 9:30 pm. For a complete list of Sundance Institute events — including the May 21 panel discussion with Allison Anders, Hal Hartley, David O. Russell, John Waters and Janet Maslin — visit www.bam.org/sundance. For tickets, visit the box office at 30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene or call (718) 777-FILM. — LJC

FASHION

Indie threads

After three years, fashion-forward Brooklynites — with a heart — know the place to be is by the runway at Tuesday's annual "Fashion on Fulton & Friends" event at the Brooklyn Museum.

Year after year, borough clothing and accessory designers have come together for the fundraiser, which benefits Brooklyn Community Housing and Services (BCHS).

Karen La Porte, of Boerum Hill's Ourvez, a Petterucci, is one of the many artists who have sent their fashions down the catwalk since the beginning.

"This year, I'm showing a lot of silk pieces, such as a silk charmeuse dress in brown and silver satin — 1940s-vintage inspired pieces," La Porte told GO Brooklyn. "I love doing the show and seeing what other designers are doing, and it always has such great energy. And it's a great cause."

A silent auction will add to the excitement of watching the sartorial temptations strut by in the Beaux Arts Court — "a gorgeous space," says La Porte (whose 2005 ensemble is pictured above). Proceeds from bidding and ticket sales support BCHS, which provides housing and support to formerly homeless people and others in need.

BCHS will honor restaurateur-chef Alan Harding, host of Discovery Home Channel's "Cookin' in Brooklyn," among others.

"Fashion on Fulton & Friends" takes place May 9 at 6 pm at the Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights. Tickets are \$100 and up. For information, call Brooklyn Community Housing and Services at (718) 222-1808, ext. 132 or visit www.bchands.org. — LJC

Peek at the Joneses



Whether looking to meet their neighbors, to find inspiration for their own interior design project or just to get some exercise, decorating junkies won't want to miss this month's house tours in Brooklyn Heights and Fort Greene.

On Sunday, select Fort Greene residents will open their homes for a self-guided tour, which benefits the Fort Greene Association, a community advocacy group.

Among this tour's highlights are access to the top of the Williamsburgh Bank Tower, rare glimpses of the interiors of Victorian-era homes (decorated in a wide array of styles) and the exhibit "Fort Greene Modern," which features artist's renderings of cutting-edge structures by Enrique Norton, Hugh Harly and Ar-

quitectonica that are slated to rise in this historic hood.

The Heights tour, "The Brooklyn Landmarks House and Garden Tour" (pictured), takes place on May 13 and benefits the Brooklyn Heights Association. Among the crowd pleasers on this self-guided tour are an 1848 brick house with a Japanese tea garden and the newly restored ceiling murals in the Zion German Evangelical Lutheran Church's sanctuary.

"Transition/Fort Greene" takes place May 7, from noon to 5 pm, rain or shine. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Tillie's of the tour, \$25 tickets are available at BAM

Triangle Park. For information, visit www.historicfortgreene.org.

"The Brooklyn Landmarks House and Garden Tour," takes place May 13, from 12:30 pm to 4 pm, followed by pastries and tea in the garden of Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims from 3 to 5 pm. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by phone at (718) 858-9193 or on the Web site www.brooklynheightsassociation.org. On the day of the tour, tickets will be sold at the entrance to St. Ann's School, 129 Pier-report St. at Clinton Street. The tour does not permit photography or children under age 13, except infants in front-packs. — Lisa J. Curtis

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Rekindled romance

Fifth Avenue's Cocotte introduces new chefs, new menu

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Cocotte was the only French bistro on Fifth Avenue when it opened in 2002. Not long afterward, this commercial strip of 99-cent stores and greasy spoons began a culinary turnaround. Joining the few intrepid restaurateurs, like Cocotte's owners Bill and Christine Snell, came chefs who opened French cafes, Thai places, Italian trattorias and bars.

Before long, Fifth Avenue was the second — and much improved — coming of Smith Street.

Having so many dining choices can be a wonderful thing, but it can pose a problem: with new places to sample, customers sometimes forget the older gems in their midst.

That's what happened to me.

I never made a decision to stop visiting Cocotte (French for "chicken"). I just got busy giving the newcomers a try. Before you could say "coq au vin," a year went by between meals there.

During that time, executive chef Rebecca Peters and pastry chef Valerie Pryor moved on. I'd heard that the Snells hired Adam Ross (formerly of Salt, a four-star restaurant in Cambridge, Mass.), who was turning out elegant, boldly flavored fare. I'd also heard that the desserts, executed by Richard Chirol, were impressive.

I never knew what to expect when I've been away from a restaurant for a while: the menu can seem dated, whatever I enjoyed about the ambience could lose its charm at second glance. Neither proved true during a recent visit to Cocotte, where Christine still acts as the charming hostess.

I'd forgotten how lovely Cocotte's dining room is. On the first Sunday evening, when the weather finally felt like spring, the cafe's tall windows were opened wide, allowing breezes to ruffle the sheer golden curtains. The walls are covered with dark wood and lit by stained glass chandeliers, so the space is romantically dark in the colder months, and full of light from the street during the warmer seasons. With its deep-stained wood floors and white linen tablecloths, its aesthetic is neither farmhouse cute nor Parisian chic, but something comfortably in between.

The dinner I recently had there was indeed elegant, but also earthy and attractively — yet simply — plated.

There isn't a better way to welcome spring than with an icy cold, crisp — yet slightly sweet — flute of Kir Royale. The old-fashioned cocktail is made with champagne tinged with creme de cassis, the black currant-flavored liqueur.

Another touch of spring is Ross's bright green pea soup. He kept the seasoning down to a minimum so the vegetable's freshness stayed strong and clear. Creme fraiche added a touch of tartness to it, while mint brightened the taste. A brittle, extra salty strip of house-cured pancetta balanced on the rim of the bowl. One nibble of the intense bacon, paired with a spoonful of the warm soup, made a little cha-cha on the tongue.

He played the same salty/delicate dance in another appetizer of asparagus spears, tossed in champagne vinaigrette and topped with slices of house-cured duck breast. The vegetables had a nutty, lemony taste; the meat was tender and rimmed with crisp fat. Coarse grains of sea salt intensified each ingredient and added a playful crunch to the dish. A warm poached egg dripped over the works.

An entree of grilled sea scallops



was as attractive on the plate as it was a pleasure to consume.

Big, grilled scallops sat over lushly creamy mashed potatoes. Small chunks of braised sunchoke — which are actually tubers — added nuttiness, while a dab of cherry tomato to salad, freshened with cilantro, brightened the plate.

One stunning entree was the slow-roasted pork shoulder bundles. Ross roasted the meat with orange juice, rosemary and garlic for five hours until it took on the texture of confit, and then wrapped in fatback. Each little



bundle is served juicy like a plump sausage. Slices of orange and anise-fennel lighter the dish with citrus notes. It's delectable.

So was the 14-hour braised lamb shank, but this dish was a touch heavy on a warm night. Ross served the hearty meat with sunchoke, pieces of silky, slow-cooked turnips and string beans that added a necessary touch of green to the plate.

Lake Rosa, Chirol takes familiar fare and gives it a contemporary spin. Rice pudding, the humblest of desserts, travels to the tropics when the grains and moist golden raisins are cooked in coconut milk. The dish is finished with a scoop of intense mango sorbet, candied walnuts and banana slices that have a hard cap of caramelized sugar.

Flourish chocolate cake is served just as it should be: in a small, warm circle, enveloped on one side by a disc of chewy hazelnut meringue and topped with a spoonful of Guinness Stout-tinged gelato.

Cocotte may be an old-timer in the Fifth Avenue dining scene, but it's my latest favorite.

Shanks for the memories: At Cocotte restaurant in Park Slope, Chef Adam Ross (at left) serves up a braised lamb shank (above), which he marinates for 14-hours then serves with turnips and artichokes.

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Cocotte may be an old-timer in the Fifth Avenue dining scene, but it's my latest favorite.

Catering to clients

It's no longer possible to make reservations at Restaurant Gia.

The modern cafe in Fort Greene closed on Jan. 1, but the fans of Ian Grant (pictured in 2003), Gia's owner and chef, will be delighted to learn that he is now concentrating on A La Carte Catering and Event Services.

Housed in the same two-level space as Gia, the full-service catering and party planning operation specializes in upscale fare for corporate and residential clients, including on- and off-site wedding receptions.

"The restaurant was doing well," says Grant, "but we were ready for a change. The catering side of the business was taking off, so it made sense to concentrate on that." Grant, who cooked in the kitchens of DUMBO's The River Cafe and Manhattan's Jean-Georges and Bouley, offers a full range of dishes "prepared in the French technique and influenced by

Asian ingredients," he says.

The ivy-covered brownstone, furnished in the contemporary style of French designer Christian Ligne, is available for private events. Its two rooms with dark wood floors, shelves of art books and long limestone bar make an elegant setting for up to 150 people. Off-premise catering is available, too.

A La Carte Catering and Event Services (68 Lafayette St. between South Portland and South Elliott streets in Fort Greene) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The catering service is open from 9 am to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday, and Sundays from 10:30 am to 3 pm. For more information on services and pricing, call (718) 246-0139.

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— Tina Barry



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RESTAURANT LOUNGE

Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, MAY 6

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CRUISE THE LULLWATER: Guided tours on the electric boat Independence. See on Brooklyn's flora and fauna by water. \$10, 50 children. Noon to 12:45 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8943.

INTRO TO BIRD WATCHING: at Prospect Park. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400 ext. 101. Free.

URBAN RANGER WALK: Learn about the history of Fort Greene Park. Ranger-led walk discusses fort's role in the Revolutionary War and the prisoners of war who are entombed in a vault. 1 p.m. Meet at Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue at Washington Park. Call 311. Free.

BOAT TOUR: Boat around Brooklyn while learning about the history of Prospect Park. \$10, 50 children. 1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8943.

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lorenzo hosts the Metro Tour Service, taking a walk through Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Brooklyn Heights, \$25, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet at Marriott Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents Mike Delany in "Great Males of Genius." \$12, 70 N. Sixth Street. (718) 968-4444.

PERFORMANCE

CENTRAL BRANCH: presents the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music in a program of piano music. 2 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

DANCE: One-specific dance theater work for 12 dancers, choreographed by Abigail Levine. 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Brooklyn Museum, main entrance, 200 Eastern Parkway. (646) 265-8775. Free.

OPENING RECEPTION: Hogar Collection presents "Absolute Threshold," by Cecilia Baggio. 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. 111 Grand Street. (718) 288-5022. Free.

BARCELONA: Classical music concert "Gallant Troubadour" featuring selections by Beethoven, Weber, Góndar, Molique and others. \$35, \$30 seniors, \$25 students. 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Kammer/Kammer," a dance piece by William Forsythe. \$20 to \$70, 7:30 p.m. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-1000.

GALLERY PLAYS: presents "Once on This Island." \$15, \$12 children and seniors. 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 352-3101. www.galleryplays.com

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: presents Neil Simon's "Jake's Women." \$10, \$8 seniors. 8 p.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 2635 E. 23rd St. (718) 645-2276.

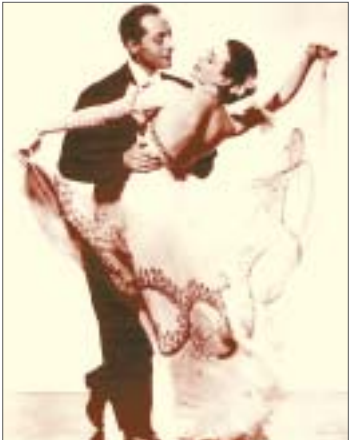
DRAMA: The Paul Robeson Theater hosts the premiere of the production "Cabini Greene," a story about an interracial couple. 8 p.m. 40 Greene Ave. between Carlton Avenue and Adelphi Street. (718) 769-9794.

BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE: presents "First Weekends: New Performance and Discussion Series" featuring performance by David Agost, Melissa Ring and Andrew Shuman. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 low income. 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

NARROWS COMMUNITY THEATER: presents the musical "Mame." \$20, \$15 child.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.



Best foot forward: Mark Warren's "Dancing Lessons" will be screened at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch on May 11 at 7 p.m.

children age 12 and younger. 8 p.m. St. Patrick's Auditorium, Fourth Avenue and 97th Street. (718) 482-3172.

THEATER: The Sedgwick Group performs as the resident company at the Brooklyn Music School Playhouse. Production is "One Big Happy Family," by Joe Cotterano. \$19, 6 p.m. 126 St. Felix St. (718) 638-5660. www.amartist.com

BRIC STUDIO: presents "Everly Above Ground," an adaptation of Michael Ondaatje's "Collected Works of Billy the Kid." \$12, \$10 students. 8:30 p.m. 647 Fulton St. (718) 855-7882, ext. 53.

IMPROV: at Brooklyn Lyceum. \$10, 9:30 p.m. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 857-4816.

CHILDREN

KID DRUMMING CIRCLE: David Slovin entertains. \$10 per family or \$5 per child. 10 am to 2 p.m. Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 Fourth Avenue. (718) 857-4816.

SPRING CARNIVAL: Families First hosts its annual entertainment event. \$7 per person. Live music with children's performer Ann McCormack at 11 a.m. Music for Aardvarks at 12:30 p.m. Elton the Super Magic Man at 2 p.m. Also, pony rides, train walks, refreshments and more. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

SHADOW BOX THEATER: presents "The Earth and Me," and asks the question: can a child save the earth? \$5.50, 10:30

a.m. YWCA of Brooklyn, 30 Third Ave. (212) 724-0677.

FAMILY MOVIE: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "Beauty and the Beast." 11 a.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids, ages 4 and older, to look at art and have an arts and crafts session. \$8 adults, \$4 seniors, free for children ages 12 and younger. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

CAROUSEL: Ride the Prospect Park Carousel. \$1.50 per ride. Noon to 5 p.m. Prospect Park's Children's Corner, near Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 857-4816.

ART: Opening party for an art gallery for children. Eclectic assortment of imagined creatures and characters, illustrated etiquette books, alphabet designs. 12 and younger. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Art in Chase Gallery. 45 Main St., Suite 301. (718) 222-4800. Free.

PUPPETWORKS: presents a marionette performance of "The Wizard of Oz." \$8, \$7 children. Recommended for ages 4 and older. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 338 South Ave. at Fourth Street. (718) 965-3391.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Kids, ages 5 and older, are invited to look at a vintage subway map and discover a transit tote for Mother's Day. \$5, \$3 children ages 3 to 17. 1 p.m. Boerum Place and South Street. (718) 694-1867.

DROP-IN CRAFTS: Art activities for children. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Prospect Park Auditorium Center. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

NY AQUARIUM: Children are invited to "Shark Ramen" behind the scenes look at sharks. \$30, \$23 members. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 44 West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-FISH.

OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: "Four Eyed Monsters," winner of best new director award at the 2005 Brooklyn International Film Festival, is screened as part of free event. 3:30 p.m. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

PILATES DAY: In honor of the third annual International Pilates Day, Half Moon Pilates offers classes. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Athletic Club, 43 Clark St. Reservations necessary. (917) 363-3394. Free.

SEMIWALK SALE: Plants, books, appliances, food, vintage and new clothing, toys, and more. Clinton Avenue, between Greene and DeKalb avenues. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (718) 636-9263.

PILATES SEMINAR: Learn how to access your inner voice. \$25, 10 a.m. to noon. Flatbush Garage, 291 Eighth St. (718) 765-1235.

ANIMAL ADOPTION: Dogs, cats, and bunnies available for adoption. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Christ Church of Bay Ridge, 73rd Street and Bridge Boulevard. (718) 826-2600.

FILM FEST: Fifth annual Women of African Descent Film Festival. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Kumbie Theater, Long Island University, 1 University Place at Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 625-0800. Free.

MOTHER'S DAY SHOPPING: hosted by The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7420 4th Ave. (718) 745-8680.

LUNCH & LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Avraham presents "Positive Parenting," with Rabbi Shmuel and Rivka Zaller. Stauber. \$25, \$35 non-members, \$18 students and seniors. \$10 children. Lunch served. 1:30 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 916-4840 ext. 18.

ARTIST TALK: Talk: Raza Gallery hosts a talk: "Collaborative Art: How It Happens." 2 p.m. 224 4th St. (718) 833-9100. Free.

BAMCENMATE: presents "Floating Clouds" (1955). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:50 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7130. www.bamcenate.com.

KNT ONE PERL TWO: Creative Arts Studio hosts a "Pick-nit." Knit and nosh while working on your own creation. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 310 Atlantic Ave. (718) 997-5600.

HOGAR COLLECTION: presents "Absolute Threshold," an exhibit by Cecilia Baggio. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 111 Grand St. (718) 288-5022. Free.

VEGAS NIGHT: hosted by Engine Co. 201. \$40 donation. Food and beverage included. 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. 210 West 11th St. 40th Street and Sixth Avenue. (718) 813-0144.

SUN, MAY 7

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

FIVE BORO BIKE TOUR: 42-mile begins in Battery Park, lower Manhattan and ends in the Bronx. \$20. Sign up online at www.bikenyc.org/ (718) 210-2100.

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment presents a walking tour of Green-Wood Cemetery. Green-Wood offers flora displays and a lecture on the life and culture of the final resting places of the men and women who shaped the city. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$11, \$9 members, \$8 seniors and students. 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet at main entrance at 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

FORT GREENE HOUSE TOUR: The last public opportunity to experience views from top of landmarked Williamsburg Bank Tower. Also, visit several Victorian era buildings. \$25, \$20 non-members. For tickets, locations and time, visit www.historictorgreenhouse.org/ (718) 596-8899.

GOWANUS CANAL: Proteus Gowanus hosts a tour of the canal, which is also along the canal through a cultural lens: historic preservation, urban planning, and post-low-income housing expert and settlement house founder. \$25, \$20 non-members. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 343 Union St. at Nevins Street. (718) 243-1572.

BOAT TOUR: 1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. See Sat., May 6.

Continued on page 11...



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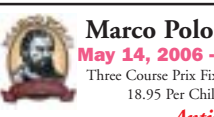
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Chilled shrimp cocktail... Additional 4.95

Capasante con Insalata Mista

Grilled sea scallops over a salad of mixed greens

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Tortello Di Ricotta Al Pomodoro Basilico
Spinach lasagna with mushrooms & mozzarella

Gnocchi di Melanzane

Potato & Eggplant gnocchi with asparagus sauce

Salmon Tornado

Salmon over a bed of spinach with lobster sauce

Filetto di Sogliola con zucchini

Baked fillet of sole wrapped in a filo dough crust with baby zucchini, served in a seafood broth

Tilapia Oreganato

Tilapia fish topped with breadcrumbs & herbs

Entrée

Bistecca alla Griglia

Grilled Sirloin steak... Additional \$4.95

Vitello Sorentino

Veal stuffed with mozzarella, prosciutto & tomato

Cotoletta di Malinno Farcito

Stuffed pork chop in a red wine sauce

Petto Di Pollo Al Rosmarino E Funghi

Chicken Breast with rosemary & mushrooms

Dessert

Traditional Italian Cheese Cake

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100 Wine Tips

The Importance of Tasting

By Darrin Siegfried

I WON'T BUY A WINE WITHOUT TASTING IT, AND WHY SHOULD YOU? (That clanging sound you hear is the sound of other wine merchants colluding on the floor.) One of the things that I'm the most proud of with Red White & Bubblly is that my customers so often tell me that every wine they buy from me tastes good!

Wine is an agricultural product; the quality of the wine is determined in the vineyard by grapes that respond to the differences in weather from one year to another. The wine-maker, especially a good one, respects this and doesn't try to force the grapes to produce something that they haven't grown into. Just because a wine has pleased one or two "critics" does not mean anything... other than it has pleased one or two critics. A wine that tasted very good last year might miss the mark this year. How to taste? Taste! When I taste wines, I'm also looking for value. There are plenty of wines on the market grown in the same area, and will cost you less money. It takes time to find them, and some wine shop owners have told me that it's too much work to do this, but I believe that I owe it to you. It's an important part of my job.

From the first week that we opened over five years ago, we have invited our customers to taste

with us. Every Friday from 5 until 8, and every Saturday and Sunday from 2 until 6 we have a wine-tasting, an important one of our representatives here to offer tastes of as many as six wines (during last year's Red, White & Bubblly, we offered 8). Join us on Sunday May 14th for this year's Rose Festival. I can promise that you will be happily surprised! By having someone on hand who knows the wines well, we offer more than just a taste; we can give an informed answer to your questions, as well as advice on buying, storing and serving wine.

One thing I can't understand about some stores that do offer tastings: how do they expect you to taste from one of those ridiculous, tiny plastic cups? You know the ones I'm talking about: they're half the size of a shot glass. I taste wines almost every day, and I can't smell the aroma of a wine poured (drizzled) into one of those, so I would never expect you to! At Red White & Bubblly we proudly serve your tastes in a crystal INAO tasting glass, the same glass used in every winery I have ever visited, and used by judges in wine competitions all over the world. We have a commercial quality Hobart glass washer that can wash, rinse and sanitize those dozen glasses in just three minutes! It's the same machine that's used in restaurants to insure that your glass is sparkling clean. I wouldn't think of offering anything less to my customers.

Red White & Bubblly: fine wines, great spirits, no attitude!

Find all of our columns online at BrooklynPapers.com

May Tastings:

Fridays 5-8 PM,

Saturdays & Sundays 2-6 PM

Fr. 5 Bologna Holiday Sherries

Sat. 6 Galopier Road, Garden

Sun. 7 Pinot, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

Sun. 8 Special Green City Chardonnay and Congressional Candidates

Sun. 9 David Vanley

Sun. 10 Come by to meet your representative!

Sun. 11 Juillard, Chateau de la Quing

Sun. 12 TBA

Sun. 13 Villa Maria, Mirabe, Napa & D'Avola

Sun. 14 TBA

Sun. 15 Selections from Organic Vineyards

Sun. 16 Imports from Santa Susana Selections

Sat. 20 Our Red Festival: Taste city, dry, dry

Sat. 21 Selections from importer Willis Glickstein

Sat. 26 South African wines from Grant Du Roux

Sat. 27 Condalia, Legenda, Red and White

Sun. 28 TBA

Mon. 29 Selections from Summer Gilling

Laura's Gourmet Kitchen

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Q: Why do I have difficulty falling asleep?
Q: Why do I often feel as if I'm in a daze?
Q: Why do I fight to stay awake while I'm driving?

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BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara F. Corvan

Amarachi Lounge
 325 Franklin Ave. at Clifton Place in Bedford-Stuyvesant (846) 641-4510, www.amarachilounge.com
 Saturdays: The Weekend Workout, 10 p.m., \$5; Tuesdays: Open Mic Artist Showcase, 8 p.m., \$5; Thursdays: Fishbowl, live fashion show featuring Brooklyn designers and models, 8 p.m., \$7.

Anyo Cafe
 1602 Greenwood Neck Road at East 16th Street in Sheepshead Bay (718) 934-5988, www.anyocafe.com
 Tuesdays: Jazz funk with Kari Okada and guests, 9 p.m., FREE.

The Backroom
 Inside Freddy's Bar 484 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035, www.backroom.com
 Sundays: Pub Quiz, 9 p.m., FREE; May 13: 11 a.m., 9 p.m., FREE.

BAM Cafe
 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 436-4100, www.bam.org
 May 6: Gospel Sing, 9:30 a.m.; May 12: Las Rabas del Norte, 10 p.m., \$10 food/drink minimum; May 13: Barbas, 10 p.m., \$10 food/drink minimum.

Bar 4
 444 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope, (718) 522-9825
 May 7: James Carr Group, 8 p.m., 10 p.m., \$5 (includes both sets).

Barbes
 316 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com
 Sundays: Italiane Winebar, 9 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; Tuesdays: Static Soul Party, 9 p.m., \$8; Wednesdays: "Night of the Rawlins' Linds", 9 p.m., \$8; May 6: The Jack Grass Band, 8 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; Life in a Blender, 10 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; A Tribute to Nikki Sullivan of the Jacobites by Sea of Scapes featuring Henry Terrace, 11 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; May 8: Andy Stanton, 9:30 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; May 9: Jenny Sherman, 7 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; May 10: The Diplomats, 8 p.m., \$8; Bishop/Cleaver/Flood, 10 p.m., \$8; May 11: Catherine Russell, 8 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; Ben Mander, 10 p.m., \$8; May 12: The Lark, \$8 suggested donation; Samba de Brasil, 8 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; Howard Falloon, 10 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; May 13: NPR/Live Broadcast from Barbes with Lameal Kolatras, Maestros Exploration, Luminous Orchestra, 4 p.m., \$8 suggested donation; Maestros Exploration, 9 p.m., \$8 suggested donation.

Bembe
 815 5th St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 387-5380, www.bembes.com
 Saturdays: Rhum, live DJs alongside live Latin percussion bands, 9 p.m., FREE; Sundays: No Selections with live DJs, 9 p.m., FREE; Mondays: Unintended, 9 p.m., FREE; Tuesdays: Natural Selections with DJ Jon Bliss and guests, 9 p.m., FREE; Wednesdays: Consequence with DJ Stefan Andriessen, 9 p.m., FREE; Thursdays: Toque with DJ Buzualo and Captain Pineda with live artists by Roman Diaz and Paul and the Oki Oki Orchestra Ensemble, 10 p.m., FREE; Fridays: World Best Flavors, 9 p.m., FREE.

Black Betty
 346 Montgomery Ave. at Hatter Street in Williamsburg (718) 599-0343, www.blackbetty.net
 Saturdays: DJs Yoh Supreme and Concerned, 11 p.m., FREE; Sundays: Brazilian Beat with DJ Sean Marquand and DJ Greg Caz, 10 p.m., FREE; Mondays: Rex: West Anderson and Hot Love Choir, 10:30 p.m., FREE; Tuesdays: Hot Rods, 10 p.m., FREE; Wednesdays: Yoh Supreme & Bobwhite with DJ Concerned, 9:30 p.m., FREE; Thursdays: Kings County Soul Night featuring DJ Montano, Emilee, Fawcette & Nick Copia, 10 p.m., FREE; Fridays: The Greenhouse with DJ Montano, Emilee, Fawcette & Nick Copia, 11 p.m., FREE.

The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
 58 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300, www.bbcm.org
 May 7: The Live All Stars featuring Andy Gonzalez & Manny Oquendo and more, 8 p.m., \$25 (15 for students/seniors).



Tara Jane O'Neil plays Union Pool on May 12.

(718) 622-3300, www.bbcm.org
 May 7: The Live All Stars featuring Andy Gonzalez & Manny Oquendo and more, 8 p.m., \$25 (15 for students/seniors).

The Brooklyn Lyceum
 227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300, www.brooklynlyceum.com
 May 8: Impass Summit hosted by Norman K. with Benicio, Scotty, and more, 8 p.m., \$10.

Catty Shack
 248 Fourth Ave. at Canal Street in Park Slope, (718) 220-5742, www.cattyshack.com
 Saturdays: DJs David Raymond & B.C. Bonesteel, 10 p.m., FREE; Sundays: P's Tea Party featuring rotating DJs and the latest "What's" viewings, 9 p.m., FREE; Tuesdays: (Downstairs) Trivia Night with Satcho, 7 p.m., FREE; (Upstairs) After-work party with rotating DJs, 5 p.m., \$5, FREE after midnight; Wednesdays: Downstairs Karaoke hosted by Jeanie Sol, 9 p.m., FREE; (Upstairs) Karaoke, 9 p.m., \$5; Thursdays: Karaoke, 9 p.m., \$5; Fridays: Karaoke, 9 p.m., \$5; Saturdays: Karaoke, 9 p.m., \$5; Sundays: Karaoke, 9 p.m., \$5.

Center for Improvisational Music
 212 6th Ave. at Third Avenue in Park Slope, (212) 637-5882, www.centerforimprov.org
 May 6: Henry Girman with Andrew Lamb and Newman Taylor Baker, 8 p.m., \$12; May 7: Anghela Banna, Kneadhead, 8 p.m., \$12; May 9: Larry Pickett Ensemble, Ralph Albert Grossman, 8 p.m., FREE; May 11: Open Session hosted by Ray Collura, 8 p.m., \$7; May 13: Jerry Granelli, David Toranzo and J.A. Granelli, 8 p.m., \$12.

Chocolate Monkey
 329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 289-3955
 Saturdays: Express also Open Mic Poetry talent showcase, 10 p.m., \$10; May 11: New York Film Festival Closing Party, 7 p.m. \$180; May 13: Backroom HappyFunda and Gaila a Go-Go, 10 p.m., \$10; (Frontroom) I EAT PANCAKES "Make Dreams Come True" Benefit Party, 8 p.m., \$5.

Club Exit
 147 Greenpoint Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 349-4989, www.clubexit.com
 Saturdays: DJ Dance Party, 10 p.m., \$15 (includes FREE until 11 p.m.); Fridays: DJ Dance Party, 10 p.m., FREE.

Club X
 1219 Utica Ave. at Avenue J in Flatlands, (718) 209-0205, www.clubx.com
 Fridays: "The Best of the Best" featuring live DJs, 11 p.m., FREE; Saturdays: night, \$10 after midnight.

The Cornerstone Pub
 1502 Cortelyou Rd. at Marlborough Road in Flatbush, (718) 740-9037, www.cornerstonepub.com
 Tuesdays: Open mic, 7:30 p.m., 1-drink minimum; Dan Pratt Quartet, 9 p.m., FREE; Wednesdays: Dalia Drazin, 9 p.m., FREE; Thursdays: Shephard Wamba's Hot Club of New York, 9 p.m., FREE; Fridays: Beavis Lawrence Trio, 9 p.m., FREE.

Crossroads Cafe
 1241 A Prospect Ave. at Beave Place in Windsor Terrace, (718) 972-1852, www.crossroadscafe.com
 Tuesdays: Jazz series with Todd Neufeld and friends, 8 p.m., \$5 donation suggested.

Crossroads Saloon
 2079 Conroy Island Ave. at Kings Highway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 339-9203
 Saturdays and Fridays: Karaoke, 9 p.m., FREE.

Le Dakar Cafe
 285 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 398-8903, www.le-dakar.net
 Mondays: Karaoke, a cast member in "The Lion King", 8 p.m., \$5; Wednesdays: Soul Session with DJ Ops, 8 p.m., FREE; Thursdays: DJ Ops, 8 p.m., FREE.

Europa Night Club
 98 Madison Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5722, www.europacub.com
 Saturdays: VIP Dance Party, 10 p.m., FREE before 10:30 p.m., \$15 after 10:30 p.m.; Fridays: Sexy Pool, 10 p.m., \$10; Saturdays: Sexy Pool, 10 p.m., \$15 after 10:30 p.m.; May 7: Susanne De & Friends, 7:30 p.m., \$10 (students free before 8 p.m. with valid student ID).

Five Spot
 459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0202, www.fivespot.com
 Sundays: Soul Food Sundays with The Boogaloo Community, 7 p.m., \$5; Mondays: Open turntables hosted by DJ Coo, 8 p.m., FREE; Tuesdays: DJ Handgren Diners, 6 p.m., FREE; DJ Tommy Talk, 8 p.m., FREE; Not Darn! Tuesdays (comedy night) with Dave Lester, 10 p.m., FREE; Wednesdays: DJ Coo, 8 p.m., FREE; Thursdays: DJ Coo, 8 p.m., FREE; Fridays: DJ Coo, 8 p.m., FREE; Saturdays: DJ Coo, 8 p.m., FREE; Sundays: DJ Coo, 8 p.m., FREE.

Frank's Lounge
 660 Fulton St. at South Street in Fort Greene, (718) 425-6235, www.frankslounge.com
 Saturdays: Sniff! Saturdays with DJ Tyrone and Infinite, 9 p.m., FREE; Tuesdays: Sunday Night, 2-drink minimum; Wednesdays: Karaoke with Davey B, 9 p.m., FREE; Thursdays: Lounge Youngblood, 9 p.m., \$10; Fridays: Downstairs Flat Dance Party with DJ Tyrone, Julian and Infinite, 8 p.m., \$5; Saturdays: Karaoke, 9 p.m., \$5.

Galapagos
 701 N. 5th St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosentertainment.com
 Fridays: V.I.D.U. Friday Nights, 10 p.m., FREE; May 6 (Backroom): Ema-Sir Productions presents 1st Annual SoFMO Mayo Concert, 7 p.m., \$7; (Frontroom) The Mosaic Project, 8 p.m., \$5; Methods NYC Record Release Party featuring live performances by Producer Marry, Gerson Baez, with Jaldien, Steve Sussie Stimula, Lodiack, and live DJs, 11 p.m., \$5; May 7 (Backroom): Ema-Sir Productions presents "Tribute to" 8 p.m., FREE; (Frontroom) The Doors, 9 p.m., \$5, \$10 & Buddy Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE; May 9: Rush Behaviour, 8 p.m., \$8; May 10: Blindside Radio, 10 p.m., \$10; May 11: New York Film Festival Closing Party, 7 p.m. \$180; May 13: Backroom HappyFunda and Gaila a Go-Go, 10 p.m., \$10; (Frontroom) I EAT PANCAKES "Make Dreams Come True" Benefit Party, 8 p.m., \$5.

Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor

At Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 748-2972, www.bsecc.com
 May 12: Traveling Troubadour Series with Mike Downing, 8 p.m., \$15 adults, \$5 children.

Hank's Saloon

46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-8003, www.hankssaloon.com
 Sundays: Shotgun Show, 4 p.m., \$5; Open Karaoke and the New Jack Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE; Wednesdays: Shotgun Show, 4 p.m., \$5; Open Karaoke and the New Jack Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE; May 13: Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE; May 12: Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE; May 13: Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE; May 13: Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE.

The Hook

18 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in Red Hook, (718) 797-3307, www.thehooknyc.com
 May 6 & 14 Days, 9 p.m., The Earthquakes, 10 p.m., Rats with Wings, 11 p.m., Drums and Drums, 11 p.m., May 7: Karaoke, 10 p.m., \$10 in advance; May 11: Emergency Festival with Ingrid, 4:30 p.m., A Draggings Series, 8 p.m., Draggings Series, 9:30 p.m., Sex, 10 p.m., Section 8 Cartel, 10:30 p.m., Dry Haze, 11 p.m., \$10 in advance; \$15 day of the show; May 12: Emergency Festival with Timelax, 7:30 p.m., Last Will, 8 p.m., Victoria Doria, 9 p.m., 8:30 p.m., Dry Day, 9 p.m., Sunlight Sunrise, 9:30 p.m., Dead Man Down, 10 p.m., Gaudy, 10:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., Mother Nation, 11 p.m., Duet, 11:30 p.m., \$10 in advance; \$15 day of the show; May 13: Emergency Festival with Come Out Fighting, 7:30 p.m., Zambos, 8:30 p.m., Rd of Mx, 9:30 p.m., Code 6, 10 p.m., A-Like, 10:30 p.m., City Bath Water, 11 p.m., Our First Hour, 11:30 p.m., Ready, Willing, Disabled, Midnight, 11:30 p.m., \$15 day of the show.

Hope and Anchor

347 Van Brunt St. at Midcott Street in Red Hook, (718) 237-0276
 Saturdays: Thursday and Fridays: Karaoke hosted by drag queen Kaye, 9 p.m., FREE.

Jazz 966

966 Fulton St. at Cambridge Place in Clinton Hill, (718) 638-6910, www.jazz966.com
 Fridays: Live jazz, 8 p.m., \$5 and \$15 donation; May 12: A Pre-Mother's Day Tribute featuring "Bliss Man" Ray Schiavone & Quartet, 8 p.m., \$15 donation and \$5 minimum.

The Jazz Spot

119 Manhattan Square in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-7825, www.thejazzspot.com
 Mondays: Jam session, 8 p.m., \$5.

Jonie Restaurant

320 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 488-0777, www.jonierestaurant.com
 Tuesdays: Bronx Live! Live music featuring live music with Peter Davidson, 9 p.m., FREE.

Kill Bar-Cafe

41 Hoyt St. at State Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-5274
 Tuesdays: Open acoustic, 10 p.m., FREE; Fridays: DJ Chippie naps, hip-hop and funk, 10:30 p.m., FREE.

Laila Lounge

113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 486-4971, www.lailalounge.com
 Sundays: Blood's, 8 p.m., FREE; Mondays: Karaoke, 10 p.m., FREE; Tuesdays: Aja Lounge, 7 p.m., FREE; Wednesdays: Jazzy! Music Showcases with open mic, 7:30 p.m., live music, 8:30 p.m., FREE; Fridays: CMH, 10 p.m., FREE.

Les Babouches

7803 Third Ave. at 78th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 533-7000
 Saturdays and Fridays: Billy Ocean Shahrzad, 8 p.m., FREE.

Continued on page 11...

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HEALTH, MIND & BODY

Stroke awareness month Maimonides Medical Ctr spreads the words

Maimonides Medical Center

Maimonides Medical Center will celebrate National Stroke Awareness Month in May with a full-scale public service campaign aimed at educating colleagues and community members on recent advances in stroke research and the latest in stroke prevention, detection and treatment.

The Maimonides Stroke Center is ranked among the top 5 percent in the nation, and the top two in New York State. There are several other stroke centers in Brooklyn, but the services at Maimonides are far more advanced than at any other institution.

After the onset of stroke symptoms, there is a three-hour window of opportunity for the administration of a clot-busting drug. With highly specialized training, experts at certified stroke centers can administer that drug to appropriate patients. But there is a nine-hour window of opportunity for an advanced treatment, and Maimonides is one of only a handful of hospitals in the New York metropolitan area with the capacity

to provided that treatment — and the ONLY one in Brooklyn.

Dr. Jeffrey Farkas, Director of Interventional Neuroradiology, can insert a special instrument into a blood vessel, thread it up to the brain, and remove a stroke-causing blood clot. This procedure can greatly reduce stroke damage, and in some cases has completely reversed all symptoms. Dr. Farkas is among an elite few in the nation with significant experience utilizing this advanced

technology for stroke patients.

Dr. Steven Rudolph, the neurologist Stroke Director at Maimonides, has just been selected as investigator in two clinical trials for the newest medical stroke therapies. This distinction is bestowed only on the most respected clinicians in that specialty.

These therapies, too, will be able to provide treatment up to nine hours after the onset of symptoms.

In addition, Maimonides has a multi-

disciplinary team of stroke experts that includes physicians and nurses from the Department of Emergency Medicine, providing the vital first line of defense in combating stroke.

The ER at Maimonides is equipped with telemedicine, an interactive system that allows consultation with a stroke neurologist in real time, even when the doctor is at a remote location. In our stroke unit and interventional neuroradiology suite, nurses are certified and experienced in these specialties, and they coordinate recovery plans that include numerous technicians and therapists.

Stroke is the leading cause of disability and is the third leading cause of death in the United States. It is second only to Alzheimer's Disease as a cause of dementia. Stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain bursts or gets clogged. The affected part of the brain doesn't get the blood it needs and begins to die within minutes.

For more information on stroke risk factors and treatment, visit the Maimonides at www.maimonidesmed.org.

LMC's Hospital Week party

Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center and Borough President Markowitz will kick off National Hospital Week, on Monday, May 8, by celebrating Lutheran Medical Center's new designation: the best rated hospital in Brooklyn!

A recent study by HealthGrades, a leading health care ratings company,

found LMC to be among the top five percent in the United States — and the best rated in Brooklyn — for clinical excellence. The 2006 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence ranks LMC among the best in the nation overall, and also top-rated in pulmonary, stroke, gastrointestinal, general surgery, joint replacement surgery and orthopedics.

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Where to Go...

Continued from page 11...

JEWISH HERITAGE: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents a screening of "Dancing Lessons," 7 p.m. Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARGENMUSIC: Classical music concert of works by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Schubert, 8:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.

IMPACT THEATER: presents "Wounded Hopes," based on the poetry of Gerald Zipper, 8:30 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

BRIC STUDIO: "Elsewhere," 8:30 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

SACKETT: "One Big Happy Family," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

Fri, May 12

BKLYN DESIGNS: Brooklyn-based designers and manufacturers of contemporary furnishings, including indoor and outdoor furniture, and more. Opening day, to the trade only, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13. Also, opening night party, 5 p.m. Warehouse, 38 Water St. Call: (718) 643-1414.

ARTS ON THE COMMONS: Metro Tech Business Improvement District hosts its annual Spring Arts on the Commons celebration with Isaac Ben Ayala Quartet, Noon. Metro Tech Commons, Jay and Duane streets, (718) 488-8200.

SEWING CLUB: LaFetra's Historic House offers basic sewing techniques in creating a patchwork quilt, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Children's Corner, inside the Park's Wildlife Center, at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard, (718) 789-2822. Free.

SUNDANCE AT BAM: Sundance Institute in collaboration with Brooklyn Academy of Music presents a screening of "The Short Life of Jose Antonio Guiterrez," 9:30 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7111. www.bam.org

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "Thelma and Louise," Rated R, 7 p.m. Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARGENMUSIC: Classical music concert of works by Mozart, Weber, Schubert and Schumann, 8:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Philharmonic performs with musician Elvis Costello, 8:30 p.m. See Sat., May 13. Brooklyn Academy of Music, Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 488-5913 or (718) 634-1100.

QALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents Mike Dossy in "Great Men of Genoa, An Evening with Italians, Men and Their Cliffs," 8:30 p.m. 70 N. Sixth Street, (212) 688-4444.

SACKETT: "One Big Happy Family," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "Jake's Women," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

IMPACT THEATER: "Wounded Hopes," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Once on This Island," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

BRIC STUDIO: "Elsewhere," 8:30 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

Sat, May 13

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIKE TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts its third annual tour of sustainable building and sites. Explore eco-friendly initiatives along the waterfronts of Brooklyn and Queens. Trip ends at Brooklyn Brewery in Williamsburg, 9:15 a.m. Depart from the Brooklyn Museum, 501 N. 5th Street, Noon to 4 p.m. (718) 788-8500. ext. 208.

ECO-CRUISE: NYC Audubon Society offers a tour of the New York Harbor. Learn about winter birds of the Lower Bay region, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at South Street Seaport, Pier 17 lower Manhattan, (212) 742-7669.

INTRO TO BIRD WATCHING: At Prospect Park, Noon to 1:30 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 287-3600 ext. 101. Free.

BOAT TOUR: Boat around Brooklyn while learning about the history of Prospect Park, 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 287-3600.

HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR: Brooklyn Heights Association sponsors annual self-guided tour of ten historic homes, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Refreshments served. Pick up tickets at 129 Pierpoint St. (718) 638-9192.

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lora hosts the Metro Tour Service, taking a walk through Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet at Marriott Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0400.

PERFORMANCE

ORCHESTRA: Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch presents the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, 1:30 p.m. 280 Cadogan Plaza West, (718) 623-7100. Free.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents The Guarini Opera Club of Brooklyn College in a program of operas and Broadway favorites, 2 p.m. Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARGENMUSIC: All-Hindemith chamber music concert, 8:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Once on This Island," 8:30 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

NARROWS COMMUNITY THEATER: presents the musical "Mame," 8 p.m. St. Patrick's Auditorium, Fourth Avenue and 97th Street. Call for ticket info. (718) 482-3173.

THEATER: The Paul Robeson Theater hosts the premiere of the production "Calderine," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: presents Neil Simon's "Jake's Women," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

SACKETT: The Sackett Group performs as the resident company at the Brooklyn Music School Playhouse. Production is "One Big Happy Family," by Joe Costanza, 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

IMPACT THEATER: presents "Wounded Hopes," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Once on This Island," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

BRIC STUDIO: "Elsewhere," 8:30 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

SACKETT: "One Big Happy Family," 8 p.m. See Sat., May 13.

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Water Taxi heads to Fairway

The Brooklyn Papers

Who needs the highway to get to Fairway?

A new weekend ferry service is to bring Manhattanites to the new market — and perhaps to sample Red Hook's other attractions — began last weekend.

"I had no idea about this place, it's really beautiful," said ferry rider John Bedini.

The newly renovated New York Water Taxi terminal sits at the foot of Van Brunt Street — facing the soon-to-open gourmet emporium.

Passengers will be able to stop in Red Hook, or hop a ride to Brooklyn's Fulton Ferry Landing, or to Lower Manhattan, 17 times each Saturday and Sunday — a tourist-friendly schedule created with an eye toward the market, as well as the city's plans to connect the notoriously hard-to-reach waterfront neighborhood to future parks in Manhattan, Brooklyn Heights and Governor's Island.

A receipt from Fairway — expected to open on May 17 — will earn ferry passengers a \$3 discount. Operators are hoping it's enough of a deal to lure Manhattan's Fresh Direct shoppers to the converted Civil-War era warehouse store.

"My brother is always saying what a pain it is to get to Red Hook, but when he got off the ferry he was like, 'That was easy,'" crowed Red Hook resident Katie Dixon.

"It was 15 minutes door-to-door from his apartment in the financial district to Red Hook."

"We got e-mails from cruise ship passengers who wanted to catch the ferry in Manhattan and take it to the



A New York Water Taxi off the Red Hook dock Saturday.

ness Administration awarded the Fairway site's developer, Greg O'Connell, its "Small Business of the Year" award, citing his role in "turning Red Hook into New York's hottest new neighborhood."

The opening coincided with the second docking of the Queen Mary 2 at its pier at the foot of Pioneer Street. Some passengers were a little too enthusiastic.

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Smartman was impressed that Michelle bought lingerie for her mom. While paying for her \$65 bra, Smartman listened to Patti's thoughts on Heath.

"I really respect the fact that he chooses to move here, a real place with real people," she said. And then, almost as an afterthought, she added that she sees the two of them a lot at Smith and Vine, a tasteful boutique wine shop across the street.

"What do you expect? He's an Aussie," said a woman who was shopping for shoes under-neath.

Heathless, Smartman popped into Smith and Vine, juggling three shopping bags, half expecting to see them loading up on fine vintage booze.

So it wouldn't be a total loss, Smartman did spend \$18 on a bottle of sake (recently depleted and hungry, she made her last stop at a real neighborhood hangout, The Food Company — surely a place that Heath and Matilda would feel right at home.

Futley scanning the casual restaurant for Matilda's stroll, Smartman ordered a superb turkey club with bacon, arugula, and cranberries.

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BROOKLYN BRIEFS

Ratner hires rival's chief

The Brooklyn Papers

Touche, Tish!

The chief of staff to one of the highest-profile opponents to the Atlantic Yards project has quit her job to work for her former boss's biggest foe — Bruce Ratner.

It is unclear what Janella Meeks, former chief of staff to City Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) will be doing for Ratner, but the still-unpublicized revolving-door move certainly had insiders buzzing.

"Oooh, this is too good," cooed one supporter of Atlantic Yards — and an opponent of James's. "How does it look for Tish James to lose her chief of staff to Bruce Ratner?"

Sources say that James and Meeks — sister of pro-Atlantic Yards Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Queens) — disagreed on Ratner's plan to build a basketball arena and 17 skyscrapers within James's district. Before going to work for James, Meeks was an aide to arena cheerleader Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Prospect Heights).

"Janella felt very alone in Tish's office," said a colleague in city government.

But James said Meeks quit simply because she moved to New Jersey — a jump across state lines that made it illegal for her to remain on the city payroll.

"Obviously she needed a change," James told The Brooklyn Papers. "She was looking for an opportunity, and Forest City offered it."

"I guess she needed additional income and she took advantage of a deal I couldn't provide her with," James added.

News of Meeks' defection first appeared on The Brooklyn Papers' website Monday. Neither Meeks, nor Forest City Ratner, returned phone calls.



Green (D-Prospect Heights)

— Ariella Cohen



A little off the top ... and back ... and legs

Sheep in Prospect Park Zoo got their annual haircuts last weekend. As you can see from our startling before-and-after photos, Holly, a four-horned Jacobs sheep, got a full buzz cut — to the delight of dozens of kids.



Photo by Brooklyn Papers. © Alan Hershman

Dated perks subsidize luxury condos throughout the city

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's first Feng Shui-themed luxury dwellings will be publicly subsidized — but affordable housing advocates aren't feeling so serene about it.

In the DUMBO, the meditation-minded condos in the Beacon Tower — where units cost up to \$2.4 million — were developed thanks to a city subsidy created in the 1970s to encourage residential development at a time when residents were fleeing to the suburbs.

But some say the subsidy is no longer needed — especially in hot 'hoods like DUMBO.

"The vast majority of New Yorkers would be shocked to know that million-dollar condos are being subsidized by their tax dollars," said Jonathan Rosen, a spokesman for the housing advocacy group ACORN.

Last month, members of ACORN stormed the Beacon Tower's plush sales office — replete with its white leather seating and glass-topped Noguchi coffee table — to hand out flyers blasting developer Shura Boynegreen for "getting rich off the backs of working families."

Boynegreen has certainly been

getting rich: Last week, he sent out a press release to report that three-quarters of the still-unfinished building have already been sold.

He bought the formerly industrial lot for just over \$100,000 in 2004 — but the completed building will be assessed at \$5.1 million, records show. But thanks to the city's 421-a subsidy, Boynegreen's tax rate will be based on the much-lower figure for the first 15 years.

And it's not only condo owners in DUMBO sitting pretty with the city tax break. More than 28 buildings under construction in trendy Brooklyn neighborhoods like Park Slope, Boerum Hill and Carroll Gardens get the same exemption.

The buildings include:

- A 512-condo Downtown high-rise where prices are expected to exceed \$1 million.
- A 40-condo "zen-like" development on the edge of Park Slope.
- A 28-condo townhouse-style development Downtown where prices are expected to range more than \$2 million.

There's no catch to the 421-a subsidies. Unlike other city handouts, developers receiving the tax abatements are not obligated to include affordable housing in their projects — ex-

Route chosen for Gowanus tunnel



A Gowanus Tunnel along the Sunset Park waterfront would cost \$12.8 billion. It is being considered by the state Department of Transportation.

The Brooklyn Papers

The Gowanus Expressway is one step closer to swimming with the fishes.

Last week, the state Department of Transportation and the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group, which has been advocating for a tunnel since 2001, settled on a route for a tunnel that would stretch from Bay Ridge to the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel and replace the existing elevated highway.

Such a tunnel would be a dream-come-true for motorists forever stuck on the "expressway," not to mention those who live nearby. Tunnel advocates say the elevated highway has been an economic blight on Red Hook, Sunset Park and Bay Ridge since it was built in 1941.

But don't get too excited — even under the best-case scenario, a tunnel would not be completed until 2020. And the path — like the Gowanus itself — is pitted with potholes.

The tunnel would cost a stunning \$12.8 billion —

and is competing against three less-expensive proposals, including one that would simply rebuild the expressway where it is.

The state will examine all the options in a forthcoming environmental impact statement by 2010.

The money for this project would come from the same limited pool of funds that is expected to finance the Second Avenue subway, and other higher-profile projects in higher-profile neighborhoods.

Elected officials support the notion of a Brooklyn "Big Dig" — at least in theory.

"I am hopeful that a cost-benefit analysis will be a part of the EIS so that the decision can be made with the appropriate data," said Borough President Markowitz.

Right now, DOT is repaving the highway to keep it functioning through 2020. The \$440 million refurbishment is the first major work done on the highway since 1961.

— Dana Rubinstein

Fear of restaurants' In-Sink-erators

The Brooklyn Papers

A proposal to allow restaurants to grind up garbage would send it down the drain has environmentalists seeing red — red meat in the Gowanus Canal, that is.

"Imagine all the waste from the restaurants on Smith Street — hamburgers, pizza, whatever — going straight into the sewers," Mark Lanaghan, commissioner of the city Department of Environmental Protec-

tion, told The Brooklyn Papers.

At a town hall meeting last week at the YWCA in Boerum Hill, Lanaghan criticized a pending City Council proposal that would give restaurants the same rights as residents to grind their organic material and send it down the drain.

The same fear that once banned residential In-Sink-erators — that gurgling food would clog the city's antiquated sewer system — is behind

Lanaghan and others' opposition to the new proposal.

During heavy rainfalls, everything that goes down a drain in this city — food, garbage, fecal matter — ends up in waterways like the harbor and the Gowanus Canal, which has 13 sewage-spewing pipes along its one-mile length.

Restaurant owners say garbage disposals would save them thousands of dollars a year in trash pickup costs.

"We could just throw the wet stuff

down the drain instead of carrying dripping bags all over the place," said Big J, a cashier at Front Street Pizzeria in DUMBO.

But for now, Big J seems to be in the minority.

"We are trying hard to clean the canal," said Lanaghan. "And everything we know leads up to believe that commercial grinders would mean a lot more food floating in the wastewater and, eventually, in the Gowanus." — Cohen

Greenpoint smoke blankets N. B'klyn

The Brooklyn Papers

"Did you leave the coffee-maker on overnight?"

"Who's smoking on the fire-escape?"

"Is the house on fire?"

That's how northern Brooklynites — from Williamsburg to Windsor Terrace — greeted Tuesday morning, unaware that at that moment, firefighters along the Greenpoint waterfront were battling the largest blaze since Sept. 11, and the biggest Brooklyn inferno since the Hotel St. George fire in 1935.

It took 36 hours to fully extinguish the 10-alarm fire at the Greenpoint Terminal Market — a 13-building complex in a gentrifying neighborhood where industrial warehouses are rapidly being converted to luxury housing.

The property's desirability raised suspicions that its owner, Joshua Guttman, had burned down his own buildings for the insurance money rather than demolishing them, which he has the permits to do.

Adding to the whisper campaign is this fact: In 2004, a DUMBO building Guttman owned and slated for residential conversion burned down in a suspicious fire.

Guttman's lawyer denied the developer had anything to do with Tuesday's blaze — and fire marshals have not begun their investigation.

Here is what is known: Guttman bought the complex in 2001 for a mere \$25 million. But last year, a developer paid him \$42 million for just 10 percent of the site — meaning the buildings are now worth nearly 200 times what Guttman paid for them just five years ago.

The increased value is a result of last year's rezoning of the waterfront from manufacturing to residential.

Guttman's deal with the developer fell through.

— Gersh Kuntzman



Firefighters battle Tuesday's massive fire in Greenpoint.

Screech! Weiner nixes grand prix

The Brooklyn Papers

Clearly, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay) isn't afraid to lose the Grand Prix vote.

The fiery mayoral wannabe has put the pedal to the metal and vowed to block efforts by Paul Newman and his Formula One team to hold an annual three-day grand prix race at Floyd Bennett Field, which is part of the national park system.

"I'm not going to permit it," Weiner told The Brooklyn Papers. "It's an inappropriate use of a national park. Parks are for recreation, not entertainment. We turned down a Phish concert there."

Weiner's blood was boiling because state Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Sheepshead Bay), who supports Newman's racing plan, upbraided a Weiner staffer at a recent meeting about the project. Weiner followed up by yelling at Kruger last week at a Mill Basin synagogue.

"He crossed the line, attacking my staffer, and I told him so," Weiner said. "I think he got the message."

Kruger aide Jason Koppel said his boss was upset to put the back-to-back shooting matches behind him.

"We just want to have an open discussion about the grand prix plan," he said.

— Kuntzman

CHECKIN' IN WITH... Hakeem Jeffries

Another hat is in the ring to succeed Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Fort Greene), who is leaving his seat to seek a promotion to Congress next two years after being found guilty of double-billing the state on travel expenses (nice). Joining the other declared candidate, Bill Batson, is community activist Hakeem Jeffries, who has run twice for the seat — and would have run a third time, except Green and others re-centralized the district line so that Jeffries' building was no longer in the district (nice). This week, Jeffries checked in with Gersh Kuntzman.



Q: I was happy to see that you were running — not because I support you, but because you once again live in the district.

A: I was always a Prospect Heights resident. When I got 40 percent of the vote in 2000, it shocked the political establishment. So they redrew the lines and suddenly my apartment — I was on Park Place — had been cut out. The line was moved one block away.

Q: Clearly, somebody didn't want you to run against Roger Green.

A: I don't think even he would say he had no responsibility for redrawing the lines. It was clearly a classic case of Albany incumbent protection.

Q: Why didn't you run against him after he resigned in disgrace following the conviction?

A: Under state law, you have to be in the district for a year. [Jeffries later moved into the district.]

Q: So he screwed you twice — first by drawing you out of the district and then by resigning too late for you to run?

A: Yes, but it brought more attention to the issue of redistricting and other reforms that Albany hasn't dealt with.

Q: What are your issues?

A: We need to address the affordable housing crisis that is suffocating large parts of central Brooklyn. You have folks who are being pushed out of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Prospect Heights. The state has to get back in the affordable-housing business in a real way. Programs like Mitchell-Lama, which promoted affordable home ownership and affordable rentals for working families for middle-class residents.

Q: So where do you stand on the biggest project, Atlantic Yards?

A: There must be significant provisions for affordable housing for middle-class and working-class families. A middle-class family in New York today is a family of four that earns \$100,000-150,000. That family can't afford to buy in central Brooklyn.

Q: Will Atlantic Yards change that?

A: It will hinge on the housing component. The project has not yet earned my support. More can be extracted for the community. With Bruce Ratner, the on-site affordable housing is all rental. Some co-ops should be affordable units. That's how you get permanence in neighborhoods and passing wealth from generation to generation in America.

Q: Couldn't help but notice that one of the people handing out flyers at your announcement was none other than Ratner spokeswoman Lupe Todd. Care to explain?

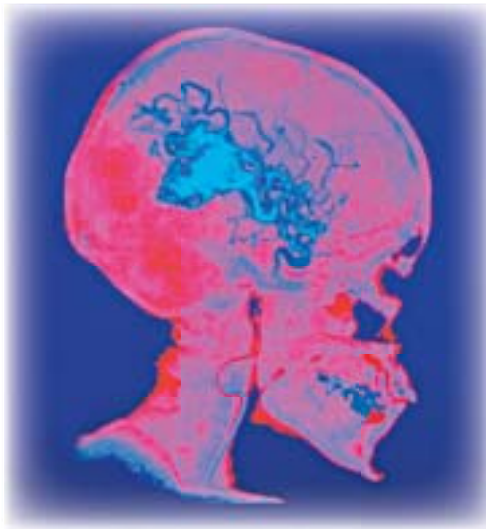
A: My friendship with Lupe dates back to 2001, when I was working on the Mark Green campaign for mayor and she was on Peter Vallone's campaign.

Q: And you were friends?

A: Well, the real fighting in the mayoral race was between other candidates, not ours. Besides, I had an idea that, someday, there would be a Ratner project — and that she would be working on it. It's funny that people bring up Lupe, yet not notice that two of my most prominent supporters, Eric Adams of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement and the Rev. Clinton Miller, are vocal opponents of Atlantic Yards. So if anything, my candidacy shows I can unify people.

Q: That was nicely spun, Hakeem.

A: Thank you.



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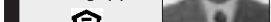
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• Dining Rooms
• Halls
• Closets
• Basements
• Attics
• Garages
• Pools
• Hot Tubs
• Saunas
• Jacuzzis
• Steam Rooms
• Showers
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• Sinks
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